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Town's new heritage trail launched

BID TO GET SAM'S MARATHON MISSION BACK ON TRACK!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Fundraising drive to buy special bike for 'inspirational' pal who battled back from life-threatening condition

A MAN who was only given a 50-50 chance of survival following a massive bleed to the brain more than 15 years ago is hoping to complete SIX marathons in aid of charity - with a little help from his friends!

When Sam Formby was struck down as a 15-year-old his parents were told to fear the worst.

Then after 13 months in hospital they were told he would probably never speak again and would have to be fed through a tube for the rest of his life.

But Sam from Ormskirk defied the odds again and now, despite being confined to a wheelchair, he regularly attends Edge Hill gym, as well as both the Edge Café and The Green Room in the town where friends say he brightens the day with his banter!

The inspirational 31-year-old has already completed two half-marathons and one full marathon using a specially-adapted hand cycle, to raise money for the Derian House Children's Hospice and Rainbow House, Mawdesley.

And as well as training to be a counsellor to people in similar situations to himself, he is aiming to complete five more marathons to inspire others with disabilities to never give up.

However his hopes suffered a setback when his lightweight cycle was damaged beyond repair after it fell from the roof of a car in transit.

Now his pals have launched a fundraising drive in a bid to raise the £8,500 needed for a new one.

David Luton, who met Sam at the university gym, and other friends, are organising a 'Red Carpet Ball' which they hope will help them to hit their target.

The black tie event, to be held at Hurlston Hall Golf & Country Club in Scarisbrick on Saturday, March 3 will feature a singer, comedian, DJ, auction and a raffle. Tickets are priced £40 which includes a glass of fizz on arrival and a three-course meal. And guests are encouraged to dress up as there will be prizes for the best-dressed man and woman.

David, said: "I first met Sam two years ago at Edge Hill gym and like so many people at first I only seemed to notice the wheelchair not the person in it. But as time passed and I saw Sam training in the gym every single day, I watched and witnessed how determined he was.

"That determination and persistence to strive to

Continued inside

Pals David and Sam at Edge Hill gym.

Four projects to receive community levy funding

MEMBERS of the public have helped West Lancs Council to decide which projects it should fund using money raised from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in 2017/18.

The levy allows the authority to raise funds from developers undertaking building projects in West Lancs. Monies collected must be used for infrastructure needed to support new development across the borough.

The council has a list of about 100 infrastructure schemes that have been put forward by service providers, ward councillors, parish councils, residents and other stakeholders.

A shortlist of the most deliverable projects from those put forward was publicly consulted on by the council in October 2017.

Council chiefs said that 'a good number' of local people had commented on these and in response to those views, the decision was taken to fund four projects in 2018/19.

These are as follows:

- 60,000 towards the upgrade of playing field facilities at Chequer Lane, Up Holland. The Football Association has agreed in principle to provide £60,000 match-funding for the project.
- £40,000 towards the upgrade of playing field facilities at Whittle Drive, Ormskirk. The FA has agreed in principle to provide £40,000 match-funding for the project.
- £25,000 towards the renovation and the extension of Mere Sands Wood Visitor Centre, Holmeswood. This is the second phase of improvements at the important nature reserve. The project will be match-funded with £225,000 from other sources.

Continued inside

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New management structure unveiled by borough council

Authority says revised team will help to drive forward 'ambitious' priorities and save more than £100,000 a year

WEST Lancashire Borough Council is set to implement a new permanent management structure which council chiefs say will "drive forward its ambitious agenda for the borough" while saving more than £100,000 a year.

From Thursday (February 1) the number of directorates at the council will be reduced from four to three with services that were provided by the Leisure and Wellbeing Service being moved into the other directorates.

The three directorates will be Development and Regeneration Services; Housing and Inclusion Services; and Leisure and Environment Services.

They will continue to be supported by Legal and Democratic, and Finance and Human Resources Services.

The focus for the new directorates, it's claimed, will be to deliver the council's priorities for the economy, environment and health and wellbeing of West Lancashire, whilst balancing the budget year-on-year.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "The revised management structure will drive forward our priorities while also delivering much-needed savings in the face of continued Government reductions to local authority funding.

"I look forward to working with the team to meet our ambitions for West Lancs and bring improvements for residents and businesses across the borough."

West Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran

Savings

The council agreed the new structure at its meeting in October last year along with the voluntary redundancy of Dave Tilleray, the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing.

The authority says that the moves mean that together with previously agreed measures, the council will make a total of £267,000 in efficiency savings in 2018/19 from restructuring.

The new management team will comprise Kim Webber, Chief Executive; Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey , Director of Housing and Inclusion; John Harrison, Director of Development and Regeneration; Heidi McDougall, Director of Leisure and Environment; Terry Broderick, Borough Solicitor; and Marc Taylor, Borough Treasurer.

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New Ormskirk Heritage Trail officially launched at town's Chapel Gallery

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE new Ormskirk Heritage Trail is now in print and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert were among guests for its official launch at the town's Chapel Gallery.

Devised and published by Ormskirk Community Partnership, the trail, is the result of two years' work and has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Using the printed map or downloading the map on a smart phone or computer, residents and visitors will be able to follow a tour of the historically interesting buildings around Ormskirk town centre.

Each site on the trail has been illustrated by local artist Stephanie Guy and details of the sites are on the reverse of the map.

In addition to the trail guide, people will also be able to access the new Ormskirk Gingerbread Heritage website which will give additional information on Ormskirk's history.

An exciting feature of the website is the collection of films by Andrew Fenner where Gingy, a gingerbread model, tours Ormskirk showing the stops on the Heritage Trail with tales to tell along the way.

An opportunity to take a stroll down 'memory lane' is available with recorded memories from residents of Ormskirk featured on the website.

Memorabilia

Articles by Dot Hawkes will highlight interesting facts of Ormskirk's heritage.

Gingerbread has been a prominent feature of Ormskirk's history and Ormskirk Community Partnership has commissioned items of gingerbread memorabilia including gingerbread ceramic models, Heritage Trail mugs, notebooks and postcards.

Several full-size gingerbread models are also displayed around the town, including one at the Cricketers pub in Chapel Street, wearing a painted t-shirt of Ormskirk scenes, illustrated by local artist Anton Dolders.

West Lancs Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert, with the team behind the Heritage Trail at the launch at the Chapel Gallery.

Pals' fundraiser to get Sam's six-marathon mission back on track

From Page 1

be the best he can be is truly inspirational.

"We have since become firm friends, and I have got to know Sam and fully appreciate his fantastic sense of humour and strong will to achieve.

"He wants to support others who suffer from disability and by completing these six marathons he aims to inspire them to achieve their own goals no matter how hard the challenges may seem."

Tickets for the ball are available from The Edge Café, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, or from David Luton on 07598 234080. Tables for 10 to 12 are also available, enquiries by email to helmfundraiser@gmail.com.

Anyone who would like to donate a prize for the auction or raffle can contact David or Jill Martin on 07771 892076.

Four projects to benefit from community levy funding

From Page 1

● £300,000 towards implementation of the Tawd Valley Park Masterplan proposals, which will seek to improve open space, recreation and green infrastructure facilities in Skelmersdale.

Councillor John Hodson, West Lancs Council's cabinet member for development and regeneration, said: "Community Infrastructure Levy money is really helping to make some exciting projects a reality, and it's been great that people got involved and told us which projects they most wanted to see delivered.

"Once complete these chosen projects will help promote physical exercise and health, improve the environment and encourage sustainable transport."

The selected projects will now be delivered during 2018/19 and beyond.

For further information on the Community Infrastructure Levy go to www.westlancs.gov.uk/CIL.

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Family's prize plea!

Raffle donations sought for charity night fundraiser in aid of young siblings' battle with cystic fibrosis

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN appeal has been launched for local businesses and individuals to donate prizes for a raffle and auction for a charity night in aid of two young cystic fibrosis sufferers.

20-month-old Sienna and her baby bother, seven-month-old Noah, were both born with the incurable genetic disorder which causes mucus to collect in the lungs and can also affect other organs.

As a result, the youngsters from Burscough have to undergo twice-daily physiotherapy sessions performed by their mum. They are also prone to lung infections which necessitate two-week stays in hospital for intravenous treatment, followed by three months of extra treatment at home.

Mum, Shelby Woods, says that the children also have to take an array of antibiotics and other medicines daily to help manage their condition. And such is their susceptibility to infection that the brother and sister have to avoid contact with each other, meaning they can't share toys and have to sleep in separate rooms.

Now an appeal has been launched to enable Shelby and partner Martin to purchase a chest wall oscillation vest, a machine that connects to a special vibrating vest and will enable the youngsters' physiotherapy sessions to be done automatically rather than manually.

Cost of the machine is £8,000, while the vests, which will obviously need to be replaced as the children grow, cost about £300 each.

Sienna and Noah with mum and dad Shelby and Martin

They have already raised around £4,000 with the help of friends, thanks to sponsored runs.

Now a charity night is being held at the Lathom & Burscough Royal British Legion in Lord Street, Burscough on St Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17.

They would like to hold a raffle and auction on the night to boost funds but are finding it difficult to get suitable prizes.

Shelby said: "Sienna and Noah both have to take lots of antibiotics and medicines daily. Even something as simple as a cold can be a big problem for them.

"I have to do physio with both of them now twice a day when they are well. But if they are unwell it can be three or four times depending on how ill they are.

"The chest wall oscillation vest works by vibrating to move mucus around their lungs. If the mucus stays in one place for too long it causes damage.

"But the machines are expensive and although we have made a good start to wards our target, the charity night could be a big fundraiser. There's going to be a live band, hot-pot, raffle and hopefully an auction but we would really appreciate some donations for the night."

Anyone wishing to donate can contact Shelby by email at shelby-woods04@gmail.com.

Year 6 pupils at All Saints CE Primary School, Appley Brdge with their Young Leaders Certificates awarded by the Archbishop of York, the Most Rev John Sentamu.

Pupils earn prestigious archbishop's award for leadership skills and community spirit

A GROUP of West Lancashire primary school pupils have been awarded certificates by the Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend John Sentamu, for taking part in a programme to benefit their community.

The Young Leaders Award is the archbishop's unique active citizenship programme which empowers young people to make a difference in their local community, whilst growing in key leadership skills at the same time.

The 21 Year 6 pupils at All Saints CE Primary School in Finch Lane, Appley Bridge completed a series of community and school based tasks to qualify for the award, including a tour of their local community to identify areas that needed improvement and attention.

The work was done over a whole term, and was overseen by staff at the school with help from parents .

The awards were presented to the group at a school assembly in All Saints Church.

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The demolition men move in at the former Red Lion pub in Liverpool Road South, Burscough.

Demolition team call 'time' on former pub

DEMOLITION workers have moved in this week to call time on a derelict former public house to make way for a new care home.

The former Red Lion pub in Liverpool Road South, Burscough, which dates back to around the late 18th century, had been disused for some time.

A previous planning application by the Athena Group to build on the site was rejected in November 2015.

However, a revised application submitted by the group earlier this year, was deemed acceptable by West Lancs Council's director of development and regeneration, and approved by a meeting of the council's planning committee on Thursday, January 18.

The Athena care group, which has homes in Ormskirk, Burscough, Southport and Formby, is now set to build a new two-storey home on the site.

The home will accommodate 80 residents and create an estimated 80 jobs.

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Poignant meeting for nephew of Burscough seaman lost in bomb attack on submarine

THE nephew of a Second World War submariner whose final resting place in a sunken submarine was only recently discovered at the bottom of the North Sea, has had a poignant meeting with relatives of his uncle's fellow crew members.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

George Clandon, 72, from Burscough had only learned about the fate of his uncle, George Lawson, in recent years.

George Lawson, who was also from Burscough, was serving served on the submarine HMS Narwhal in 1940 when it was sunk by the Luftwaffe while on a mine-laying mission off the coast of Norway.

The stricken vessel was only discovered last year by a Polish expedition looking for a Polish boat called the Ortez.

George Lawson, whose name is the first entry on the Lathom and Burscough War Memorial for the 1939-45 conflict, was an engineer on the ill-fated Narwhal and was just 26 years old when he died.

Families of the 60 men who perished on the Narwhal were invited to a meeting in London. Now provisional plans are being made to take them to the site of the wreck around 150 miles off the coast of Scotland and about 90 metres below the surface.

Relatives will be able to leave a wreath in honour of the dead and, providing permission is granted for the Polish team and other crew to dive to the wreck which lies next to a pipeline, there are also hopes to attach a memorial plaque to the vessel.

Also at the meeting was Tamara Lo, the daughter of the Narwhal's skipper, Lieutenant-Commander Robert Burch. Tamara was just two years of age at the time of the submarine's sinking and never got to meet her father.

George told the Champion: "The Polish dive team work out of Whitby and only have a short window to work with due to financial constraints and crew availability. Their next search is in May this year when once again they will start looking for their own boat the Orzel, while also trying to get permission to dive on the Narwhal.

"There is a little difficulty with diving on the wreck. Firstly, it is lying in about 94 metres of water and I believe the divers can only safely dive to around a third of that depth, around 100 to 120 feet.

"And secondly the dive team have to get permission from the British authorities because of the underwater gas pipe line running very close to the wreck."

George Clandon with a photo of his uncle George Lawson who was killed when his submarine was bombed by the Luftwaffe in the Second World War

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Michael in action after his successful shoulder surgery

‘Bionic’ Michael scoops triple gold after major shoulder surgery

A TEACHER from West Lancashire has overcome a serious shoulder injury to scoop three gymnastic gold medals in a weekend - thanks to the skills of a specialist surgeon and his team at Ormskirk Hospital!

Michael Aspinall from Banks had been a talented gymnast as a teenager before his studies became more of a priority than sport.

Instead Michael, now deputy head and PE teacher at Queens Drive Primary School in Fulwood, Preston, put his talents to good use teaching the next generation.

Report by **Henry James**

And when he first started to feel painful twinges in his right shoulder when he turned 40, five years ago, any thoughts of a return to competitive sport must have been furthest from his mind.

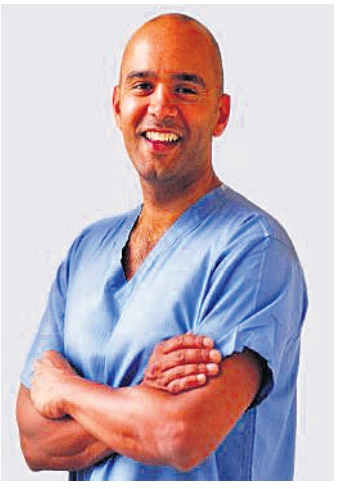
Over time his shoulder began to get progressively worse, eventually ‘popping’ out of its socket during a training session. This started to occur more frequently and after the fifth time, Michael booked into Ormskirk Hospital in a bid to get it resolved once and for all.

Encouraged

Professor Adnan Saithna, from Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said: “Michael had two tears of his labrum - a cushion that goes all the way around the shoulder socket. This was causing him a lot of pain and put a stop to his sporting activities.”

However, an operation to cure the problem proved a success and encouraged by his new pain-free status Michael decided to start serious training again.

He entered tumbling, trampoline and gymnastic events in the senior division of a competition at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire and won all three - scoring the highest marks of the weekend on the floor apparatus in the men’s gymnastics discipline!



Professor Saithna

A delighted Michael said: “I owe a great deal to the consultants, doctors and physios who have helped me get back to fitness and compete again.

“Originally I had only planned to take part in two of the three events at Lilleshall but thanks to Professor Saithna and his team my shoulder healed so well that I decided to go for all three and landed a hat-trick of golds.

“I feel like the Bionic Man!”

History group’s February schedule

ORMSKIRK Historical Society has announced its lecture programme for February.

On Monday, February 5, Keith Hick will give an illustrated talk on ‘Art Deco in the 20th Century’.

The presentation will describe the origins and influence of the Art Deco period spanning the 1920s and 1930s.

It will embrace all aspects of the genre including architecture, art and design, furniture, fashion, jewellery, poster art, transport, ceramics and sculpture.

Next up on Monday, February 19 will be an illustrated talk entitled ‘Fish, Chips & Little Ships’ by Gordon G Bartley, Associate of the Royal Photographic Society.

Containing many historical references throughout, this will explore the beauty of the North Yorkshire coast from Bridlington to Robin Hood’s Bay and concludes in the vibrant photographic gem of Whitby – home of ‘proper’ (Yorkshire) fish & chips!

Society meetings are held at the Four Land Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe starting at 7.30 pm.

Membership fee is £16 per annum, the charge to visitors is £3 per session but students can attend for free.

For more information go to the wesbite at www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

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MP welcomes restoration of bus services

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MP Rosie Cooper who has welcomed the restoration of bus services to Halsall, Haskayne and Shirdley Hill.

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has welcomed the restoration of transport links to the communities of Halsall, Haskayne and Shirdley Hill.

Lancashire County Council announced recently that from late February, Holmeswood Coaches will be operating the 315 bus service to serve residents in the western parishes.

Ms Cooper has campaigned for improved transport links to serve residents, particularly the elderly, disabled and those without cars and to ensure issues of rural isolation are adequately addressed.

She said: "I very much welcome the restoration of the 315 bus service to serve residents in the rural communities who may not have had any alternative option for transport.

"Increasingly people are left isolated and excluded unable to get to the hospital, to visit family and friends and they can be cut off from vital job opportunities.

"This route will open up many opportunities to residents to connect with the towns of Ormskirk and Southport for their shopping needs, health care visits and onward travel to Liverpool, Manchester, Wigan and Preston."

The MP was successful in campaigning for the recent restoration of the 313 Ashurst bus service in Skelmersdale, whilst previously, she has worked to secure improved bus stop provision in Haskayne.

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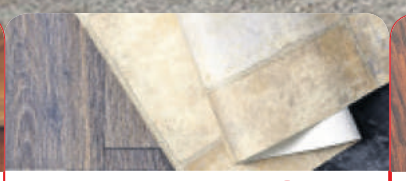

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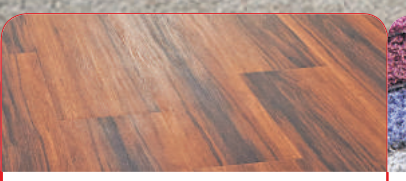

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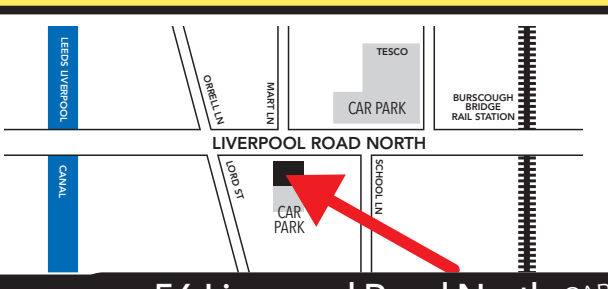

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Police chief blames Government for rise in council tax precept

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, has accused the Government of forcing the burden of funding policing onto council tax payers.

Mr Grunshaw's recommendation to increase the council tax police precept has been approved by the Police and Crime Panel which includes councillors from across the county.

The commissioner said raising the precept by £12 per year (or 23p per week) on an average property in 2018/19 would "safeguard" local police jobs across Lancashire. His submission followed a public consultation during which he said more than 78% of those who responded supported the increase.

Mr Grunshaw outlined the budget pressures facing the force after the Government's pre-Christmas funding announcement which failed to deliver any extra funding for policing in the county.

This follows years of shrinking budgets which have seen the constabulary make savings of more than £72million since 2010, with an estimated £17million in further savings needed by 2022.

Clive Grunshaw

Mr Grunshaw said: "While the Government highlighted the need for additional resources for policing, they failed to provide any extra money for Lancashire in their latest funding announcement.

"Residents who took part in my consultation have indicated clearly that they want to see money invested in the police with a large majority supporting my proposed changes. This will add an estimated £5million to the policing budget in Lancashire and protect some roles that otherwise would have been under threat.

"I don't agree that council tax is the best or fairest way to fund the police. Areas with similar budgets to Lancashire, like Essex and Sussex, are able to raise 40 to 50% more than we can with exactly the same increase in the precept. However, as this is the only tool available to me to ensure there aren't further cuts to our policing budget, this has to be the course we take.

"Demand on policing continues to increase and it is disappointing that the Government have not responded to this with central funding, instead passing the buck onto local taxpayers. This is not the answer. It is a short-term, unsustainable fix which papers over some of the cracks caused by years of austerity."

Lancashire's Chief Constable, Andy Rhodes, said: "We are grateful to the public for their continued support. This increase in council tax will help to ease the pressures of budget cuts and maintain police officer and PCSO numbers. I would reassure the public that we continue to work with the commissioner to protect front-line services and deliver further efficiencies and savings where possible."

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Edge Hill Short Story Prize open for entries

SUBMISSIONS are now being accepted for Edge Hill University's 12th annual Short Story Prize for which the winner will receive £10,000 at an event in London.

The prize is the only UK-based award that recognises excellence in a published short story collection. It also includes a £1,000 Reader's Choice award to a writer from the shortlist, and a further category for stories by MA Creative Writing students at the Ormskirk campus.

Publishers must submit collections for consideration by Friday, March 23, the shortlist will be announced by Saturday, June 30 and the winner named in November.

To be eligible, collections must be published during 2017 and authors must be born or normally reside in the British Isles (including Ireland).

For more information contact Billy Cowan by email at billy.cowan@edgehill.ac.uk or by ringing 01695 584133.

New chief executive appointed at Rainbow House

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A WEST Lancashire-based charity which provides conductive education for children and young people with disabilities, has appointed a new chief executive.

Ben Blackman, new chief executive of Rainbow House.

Ben Blackman takes over the role at Rainbow House in Mawdesley following the retirement of Carole Cochrane, CBE,

The 38-year-old from Croston, will now be responsible for the ongoing development of the charity, which has no statutory funding and raises all its own funds through donations, grants and fundraising activities.

Ben has 16 years of experience in senior management positions in the not-for-profit sector which includes years developing services for unpaid carers.

Rainbow House president, Bill Ainscough and chair of trustees, Pauline Clare, said: "We are delighted to announce the appointment of Ben Blackman as chief executive and are sure that his background and experience will bring significant benefits to our organisation and our service users."

Ben said: "Rainbow House captivates everyone who comes into contact with it and this has certainly been the case for me. I am delighted to be taking over from Carole and look forward to fulfilling our mission to make Rainbow House a centre of excellence for children with neurological conditions and disabilities."

Rainbow House currently provides more than 250 hours each of conductive education, a therapy which aims to develop the physical and cognitive abilities of children with disabilities and brain injuries.

Jess and Nina present the cheque for £395 to Danielle Richards, Marie Curie Community Fundraiser for Lancashire

Pupils turn cakes into cash for charity

CAKES weren't the only things raised when youngsters at a West Lancashire primary school held their own bake-off event.

When the School Council at Tarleton Community Primary decided to organise a coffee morning in aid of cancer charity Marie Curie pupils held their own bake-off to provide cakes to sell on the day.

Their efforts were boosted by other goodies donated by family and friends and the event raised £395 for the charity.

Danielle Richards, the charity's Community Fundraiser for Lancashire, went along to the school in Hesketh Lane to receive the cheque from school council members, Jess and Nina, who said: "We were proud to raise so much money for Marie Curie."

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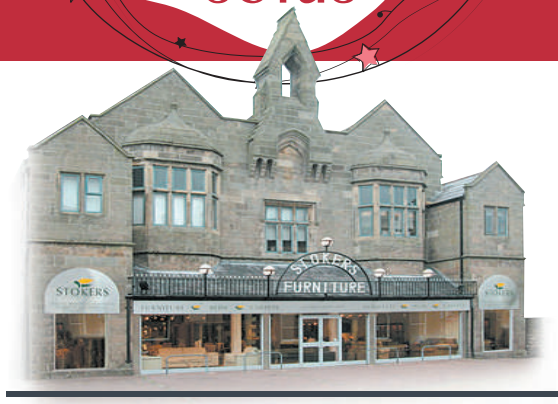

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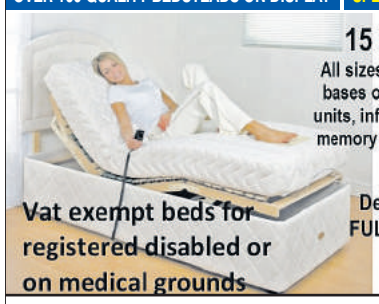

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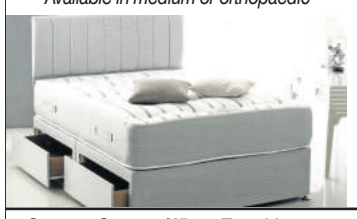

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Staff at BT Local Business Centre and businesses from Martland Mill give Andy MacGregor and pals a big send off on their sponsored bike ride for Sport Relief.

Bike buddies' grand effort for Sport Relief

THE director of a local telecoms business and two biking buddies raised more than £1,000 for Sport Relief with a sponsored cycle ride taking in telecom centres around the region.

Andy MacGregor, who is also owner of the Martland Mill business centre in Burscough where his BT Local Business company is situated, was joined by pals Richard Hawkings and Lloyd Deevey for the sponsored 51-mile ride.

The trio were given a big send-off by the BT Local Business Team and Martland Mill business tenants and after first making their way to Skelmersdale Telephone Exchange, they cycled past the BT Exchange at Lancaster House, Liverpool; the Liverpool Chambers of Commerce; and the BT Warrington call centre at Europa Boulevard; before finishing at the Cheshire BT Local Business office in Harvard Court, also in Warrington.

Andy's staff had also helped raise money by organising various activities and challenges and to date their efforts had raised more than £1,000 for the biennial charity event to raise money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and the world's poorest countries.

This was the second charity bike ride for cycling enthusiast Andy, who last year raised more than £2,500 for Stand up to Cancer with a 190-mile, coast-to-coast ride.

Sue Smith, head receptionist and facilities manager at BT Local Business, said: "Andy said he was pleased with how the event went and he was extremely delighted with the members of his cycle team, BT customer Richard Hawkins and Lloyd Deevy of BT Marketing. Both of them volunteered and went out of their way to do the cycle challenge for Sport Relief.

"Andy is also very grateful for the efforts of all his staff at BT Local Business in Martland Mill who also went the extra mile by doing raffles, baking cakes, raising sponsorship and doing challenges and quizzes in the office. To date we have raised more than £1,000 with money still coming in."

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Virgin to blame for walk-in centre shortcomings not NHS

ONCE again last week (January 24) one of your readers has sent in a nasty attack on our struggling, cash-strapped NHS.

However the letter loses all point when it turns out that the complaint is about a walk-in centre.

Unfortunately, the Government in its wisdom (?) has seen fit to hand the running of West Lancashire's walk-in centres to the Virgin company.

As this company has proved unfit to run trains on time and ruins just about everything it has ever got its hands on, any faults 'Local Resident' may have found in the walk-in centre are entirely the fault of Virgin, not the NHS.

I have had excellent treatment from our local NHS hospital staff and have nothing but praise for the hard-working doctors, nurses and auxiliary staff who endeavour to give us the best possible service on their restricted budgets.

I cannot praise the NHS too highly - it has been the envy of the world and I only wish it would be given the funds it needs to enable to continue to serve Britain in the remarkable way it has since its inauguration.

I entirely agree, however, that the NHS needs to stop being a political football, and this reader's complaint only highlights the errors of our Government who insist on making unnecessary changes which damage rather than improve its citizens health care.

Fiona Steele, Ormskirk

Taking aim at wrong target

WHY is the writer of the letter about the West Lancashire walk-in centre (January 24) criticising the NHS when Virgin Care took over running the West Lancashire walk in centre on April 1, 2017?

Janet Charnock, Burscough

Litter-pickers do a great job but those who drop the rubbish should be fined

FIRSTLY I would like to use the letters page of the Skelmersdale Champion to say thank-you to our council-appointed litter-pickers - and an even bigger thank-you to the picker who cleans around the Yewdale area of Sklmersdale.

Today on the school run I witnessed the said picker in absolutely horrible weather conditions walking around getting absolutely soaking just doing his job.

This guy is a legend in my opinion. He does an outstanding job and you can't half tell the difference when he's been around.

Secondly, who on earth are the people still dropping all this litter? Don't they know any better?

If you are one of these people that think it's okay to just discard rubbish on the floor, can you please just keep it in your pockets until you come across a bin. There are quite a few dotted around the most used pathways around Skem. There's no excuse for it.

Maybe we should follow the example of other councils and hire private company officers to hand out on-the-spot fines to litter droppers.

This would not only reduce the litter problem, but also provide much-needed funding for the council, as s money from fine payments are split between the private companies that issue the fine and the council.

Mike Flaherty, by email

Council's refuse and highway services are not up to scratch

WHAT is happening to our council services? I am concerned regarding a number of issues regarding our council refuse and highway services.

The refuse collectors appear to have no respect for residents' properties and land when collecting, not cleaning up after themselves and leaving deposits of glass on the roadway leaving car owners the expense of replacing tyres.

Also, West Lancs Council now only empty one grey bin per property on a two-weekly basis. Apparently you have to register a second bin but why have we not been told, despite being supplied a second bin by WLDC some years ago and recently emptied?

Street lighting has changed making areas dimly-lit and unsafe - again not made public. Is this another cost-cutting exercise by the council?

The cost of the services is increasing in our yearly council tax bill but the services we receive fall well below our expectations.

**Unhappy residents,
Holland Park, Skelmersdale**

Stop moaning and do something constructive

EVERYONE is so busy moaning about austerity, a present left by a previous Government.

We can do nothing about it so why don't we do something constructive?

The pavements/roadsides outside residential areas are a mess. If only people could take responsibility for their own patch. Just clear up the litter and leaves, scrape up the weeds and moss and make sure any drains aren't blocked.

The pavements outside some houses in Up Holland are barely passable, with trees and plants growing out of control.

Please just take 10 minutes to look around your house. If we all did this, West Lancs would be a much prettier place.

Observer, by email

Hospital's caring and professional staff put me at ease during cataract operation

I WOULD like firstly to thank Mr Nishith, surgeon for cataract extractions, and all theatre and nursing staff at Ormskirk Hospital Eye clinic for the way they conducted the extraction for my left eye.

They were not only professional, but explained everything to me and put me at ease.

Thank you all so much.

Secondly, after seeing snowdrops in our garden for the first time this year I was inspired to write the following poem.

You may feel your readers may enjoy it too.

The Snowdrop

What is this snowdrop? A flower of perfection
Leading us into a warmer direction
Taking us forward away from the snow
Away from the wind and the cold that will go.
As we see spring colours starting to brighten
And the days grow longer in order to lighten
Projecting the warmth that will help us to cope
We will all move forward into seasons of hope.

Judy Ingman, by email

PICTURE of the week

There was an early sign that Spring may be just around the corner when some sunlight brought a little warmth to a cluster of snowdrops at St Luke's Church, Formby.

Picture by Martyn Snape.

■ IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a nom de plume.

Brexit is not just a black-and-white issue

THE anonymous letter about Brexit (January 24) was shockingly abusive in referring to me as 'suicidal'.

How would the writer like it if I called him or her stupid? (Just for the record, I am not and have never been suicidal.)

His letter presents no information or ideas in support of Brexit. All he can do is sneer at people who want, for their own good reasons, to stay in the European Union. This is not debate - it's a personal attack.

Let me try to raise the level of the conversation. The referendum asked a simple yes/no question but the issue is not just black or white. There are pluses and minuses on both sides.

One fact is clear. If the UK leaves the EU we will be alone in the world.

Theresa May seems to think that the 'special relationship' with the USA still exists. It doesn't.

She thinks that the unpredictable Mr Trump can be relied on. Really?

Let us spare a thought for young people. They will face enormous problems as the UK economy struggles to survive in a new post-Brexit world.

In the meantime, your letter-writer could please stop hiding behind anonymity and let us know his real name.

Maurice George, by email

Why should workers like me pay so that police officers can retire at 50?

WE are being 'invited' by Mr Clive Grimshaw to donate extra funds to the police as, he says, "across the county residents tell me that they want better investment in policing."

Considering that aged 50 they can retire on a handsome (unfunded) pension - the cost of which cripples the overall funding the police receive - this seems grossly unfair and unreasonable when the national retirement age keeps increasing!

In my 70s and still working, why should I contribute at all to retired police officers?

If they were able to continue working with Lancashire Constabulary beyond 50, perhaps in a desk job, then the savings made would be enormous and we would then not need to be asked.

Disillusioned pensioner,
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Daredevils wanted to take the plunge for Legion

THE Royal British Legion is seeking thrill-seekers from West Lancashire willing to take a leap of faith to raise much-needed funds for the Armed Forces charity.

Daredevils from the borough are being invited to take part in a sponsored tandem skydive in aid of the RBL.

Would-be high-flyers have two options - either jump at 20 locations throughout the country with skydive event specialists, Click & Jump; or jump with the world-famous Red Devils, at either Nottingham or Salisbury airfield.

Participants, who must be aged 16 or older, must raise a minimum of £500, which includes jump costs and a fundraising pack.

Alison Mowlem, community fundraiser at the Royal British Legion, said: "Those signing up to take part in a skydive will get a huge buzz - not only from the excitement and thrill of the descent, but also knowing they are helping the Legion to continue to provide help and support to our Armed Forces community."

All participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No experience is required to take part as training will be provided by highly-skilled professional instructors on the day to ensure the skydive is safe and enjoyable.

For further information visit: https://clickandjump.co.uk/charities/royal-british-legion/.

County council says new early payment system will help local businesses

LANCASHIRE County Council is bringing in a new 'cutting-edge' system which it is claimed will ensure its suppliers are paid more quickly.

The council says the Early Supplier Payment System, agreed by the cabinet at its meeting last week, means that businesses can sign-up to be paid earlier than the time set out in their contract.

Payments are usually made within 30 days. However, with the Early Supplier Payments system, businesses will be prioritised in the payment queue using specialised computer software.

County Councillor Geoff Driver.

Lifeblood

In return for the county council making early payments, businesses will give a small rebate, which will vary depending on how soon they receive the payment. However, they will have the money in their account which will help to improve their cash flow.

Leader of the council, County Councillor Geoff Driver, said: "We deal with hundreds of businesses every single day, from companies who supply materials for roads, to agencies who deliver our social care services.

"Good cash flow is the lifeblood of these businesses and we need to do all we can to help.

"In other councils where the system is in use, the average time until suppliers are paid has reduced to 14 days.

"This system has been tried and tested and is making significant savings in other areas of the country and we hope to generate £500,000 over the next three years."

The system will be free to use for small businesses and they will not have to give rebates.

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The thought of handing power to a generation influenced by social media is a terrifying prospect

I KNOW I am asking for trouble by saying this, but I have become increasingly convinced that many of our current problems are down to the present pandering to the young.

I am by no means convinced even that the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 was a good idea - now those old enough to know better are clamouring for it to be reduced to 16.

And let's face it, this is a political decision. For sure, if everyone who voted was aged between 16 and 18 we would have a permanent left-wing Government. Look at any voting figures and you can see that many folk move towards the right as they grow older.

If you had asked me when I was a teenager, I would have said I was left of centre - for all the right reasons, including equality for all. Some of my thoughts then though were not quite so brilliant. For instance, when I was 14 or so I had a wonderful idea that most railway lines should be concreted over and we could all travel cheaply around the country by bus!

But as I grew up I learned to examine all sides of an argument and the unintended results of what may have seemed on the surface to be great ideas.

I freely admit that young people these days are far more savvy than those of my generation, but what they are not is any older! Put bluntly, they haven't experienced real life in the real world. Probably indeed less than those of my generation since now, for good or for ill, every boy or girl is expected to continue into higher education.

I support the idea that young people should have a voice, one that is heard and opinions respected and debated. But when you have a situation where both our main political parties are falling over themselves to curry favour with teenagers because, as has proved true, they are an organised body of people who can swing national elections, you are opening a real can of worms, particularly if you attempt to bribe them (even worse if you are eventually forced to fork out!).

Of course it's true that we think 16-year-olds are old enough to fight for their country, but in the Armed Forces they are told what to do and how to behave, rather like at school. How many 20-year-old generals are there? Would an 18-year-old Nelson have won the Battle of Trafalgar?

I am not trying to put young people down. Their enthusiasm and fresh ideas are valuable assets and they need to be listened to. But idealism and practicality do not always walk hand in hand and I really think that before making decisions on who should be running this benighted country you should have some personal idea of what is what - not necessarily second-hand from an iPod!

I note that knife crimes have risen by 21%. Most of these are committed by young people. I am not suggesting that most teenagers are knife-wielding maniacs. However, older politicians are now suggesting (and I think rightly) that there should be a change in policy so that as well as catching and prosecuting offenders, efforts should be made to look into the lifestyles of the youngsters concerned to find the root causes that lead them into crime. But I reckon those conducting these enquiries will be rather older than their subjects.

Basically, I am terrified of handing power to a generation whose opinions are based on social media, with all its attendant risks of cyber bullying and infiltration by those with extreme views.

I suppose I am still on occasion subject to extreme daft flights of fancy about some pet schemes close to my heart, but fortunately for the country at large these rarely survive waking up in the morning and anyway I can recognise them for what they are.

Ladies, it's that time of year again and the Grand National is fast-approaching. We'll be celebrating Ladies' Day on Friday 13th April in our usual style with a splash of decadence.

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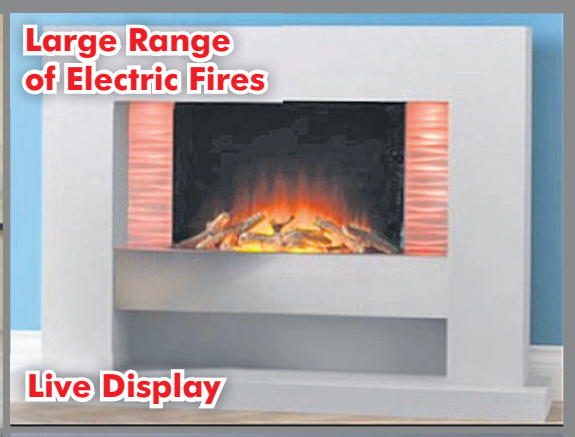

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Council warning to beware of rogue tree pruners

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs Council is advising residents to check carefully if firms offering to prune their trees are suitably qualified and insured to carry out this work, and charge a fair rate.

Concerns have been raised by the authority as many people with gardens may be looking for someone to prune their trees during the spring and summer.

For more information on looking after trees on their property, residents are advised to visit the council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/trees, where they will also find the council's list of approved arboricultural contractors. These firms are fully qualified and insured to carry out works to trees.

Wary

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "It is important that contractors carrying out works to trees are properly qualified and insured to do the work, and use the correct protective equipment.

"People should be very wary of using companies or individuals that do not fit into those criteria.

"Residents should also be on their guard against companies that may try to coax them into having work done that may not be needed and charge them more than the going rate for this work.

"It is always a good idea to try and get more than one quote for work on trees to get more of an idea of what work is needed and how much it should cost."

The council is also advising people they would need to apply to the authority for permission to carry out pruning works on a tree that is subject to a tree preservation order.

Anyone who lives in a conservation area would also need to notify council officers prior to carrying out any pruning works to trees.

Councillor John Hodson

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Appeal for county to abandon proposed cuts to community transport

Report by **Henry James**

LABOUR County Councillor Tony Martin called for the proposed cuts to community transport in Lancashire to be abandoned at the county council cabinet meeting on Thursday, January 18.

County Councillor Tony Martin

The Conservative administration at the council plan to cut nearly £400,000 from community transport services and look at a reduction of Dial-a-Ride services and a renegotiation of the Community Transport Consortium contract.

Dial-a-Ride run a community transport service for the residents of West Lancashire. They have been providing door-to-door transport for those for those who cannot access public services for more than 30 years.

Councillor Martin said: "These services are vital for our elderly community, many of whom can't access commercial bus services because they are so elderly, disabled or very frail - or sometimes a combination of all three.

"The Dial a Ride and Communicar services in Lancashire provide valuable transport links to get people to doctor's appointments, lunch clubs and friendship groups, as well as taking the strain from ambulance and NHS patient transport services by taking people to and from hospital appointments.

"They also provide a lifeline for frail people to get the big shop in or take clothes to the cleaners, door to door.

"Without these services I am sure there will be more calls on the ambulance services for hospital appointments, and in some cases if people end up missing doctor's appointments or getting the shopping done, more demand for domiciliary care or even residential placements, all of which are much more expensive to deliver and reduce people's independence.

"The report says cuts of £39,000 are being sought from a budget of £696,000, which is more than half of the current funding and given over 6,200 people used these services in the last year taking more than 166,000 journeys, as well as providing opportunities for 160 people as volunteer drivers and passenger assistants, it is a really valued and well-used service.

"The volunteering hours alone are calculated to have added £400,000 worth of benefit to the county council, a real value added service if there ever was one."

A spokesperson for Lancashire County Council said: "The cabinet considered a number of measures relating to its financial strategy for 2018/19 at its meeting on Thursday, January 18 and these will now go forward to the full council for debate on Thursday, February 8.

"One of these measures was community transport.

"However, before any final decision is made about the service, users will be fully consulted."

Philip Walker, the manager at West Lancashire Dial a Ride, said: "West Lancs Dial a Ride regret any reductions in funding which could lead to less support for those who rely on our services.

"The fact that Lancashire County Council envisage a new contract is important; we will continue to talk with LCC over the coming weeks and work with them to get the best result for our passengers, whose needs continue to grow year on year."

Residents with 'hidden disabilities' could benefit from changes to blue badge system

WEST Lancashire residents with 'hidden disabilities' could soon have greater access to blue badges under new Government plans.

The proposals, which would herald the most significant changes since the blue badge was introduced in 1970, would help remove barriers to travel for people with conditions such as dementia and autism, allowing them better access to work, shops and amenities.

This could also further help create parity between physical and mental health, and means everyone can take advantage of every opportunity.

People with 'hidden disabilities' such as autism could soon be eligible for blue badges

Currently, about 2.4 million disabled people in England have a blue badge, allowing them to park on roads without charge and normally without time limit. Around 75% of blue badge holders say they would go out less often if they didn't have one.

Transport Minister Jesse Norman said: "Blue badges give people with disabilities the freedom to get jobs, see friends or go to the shops with as much ease as possible.

"We want to try to extend this to people with invisible disabilities, so they can enjoy the freedom to get out and about, where and when they want."

The changes could also see a variety of healthcare professionals, who are better placed to identify if mental health causes mobility issues, carry out assessments to determine if a blue badge should be given.

Sarah Lambert, head of policy at the National Autistic Society, said: "The society welcomes this Government proposal. It could mean that many more autistic people will qualify for a blue badge, which can be a lifeline.

"There are an estimated 700,000 autistic people in the UK and while every person on the autism spectrum is different, for some, not being able to park in a predictable place close to a destination can cause a great deal of anxiety and put their safety at risk.

"Some autistic people can experience too much information from the environment around them on public transport, while others might not be aware of dangers on the road.

"However, current blue badge rules mean that all-too-often autistic people don't qualify.

"The society has raised this issue with Government over recent years and we are pleased to see they have listened to the concerns of autistic people and their families. We hope the Government will make this important change and we look forward to working with them to make sure that autistic people and their families benefit."

Councils have different interpretations of the existing rules with some recognising hidden disabilities, but the changes proposed would give clear and consistent guidelines for the whole of England.

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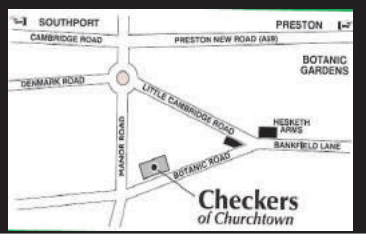

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Care trust teams up with mental health charity for wellbeing at work conference

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust is joining forces with Lancashire Mind and wider partners to deliver the first Workplace Wellbeing Conference in the county.

Aimed at supporting employers to improve the health, wellbeing and performance of their workforce, the 'Time to Talk about Wellbeing at Work' event is the first of its kind.

To be held at The Preston Marriott on Thursday, February 8, it will bring together employers from across the county to share best practice, and raise the profile and benefits of workplace wellbeing.

The focus will be on simple and practical steps employers can take no matter their size or resource, and there will be a range of activities including employer talks, interactive workshops, a wellbeing marketplace and lots more.

Lancashire Care, alongside other employers, will be sharing their experiences of achieving wellbeing at work by delivering a good practice talk, to offer learning for other organisations to translate into their own workplace.

The trust will also be holding a stall showcasing its services within the marketplace.

Joanne Smith, Health and Wellbeing lead at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "We look forward to working alongside Lancashire Mind celebrating and showcasing our own commitment to workplace health and wellbeing and engaging with other businesses and organisations across Lancashire."

And Lauren Oakland, interim chief executive at Lancashire Mind, commented: "Our conference will celebrate the work carried out by Lancashire employers and support a network of new contacts."

Joanne Smith

Marketing chief's new role

THE chief executive of Marketing Lancashire, Ruth Connor, is leaving in February to take on the new role of executive director of strategic marketing for the University of Central Lancashire.

Ruth, who was the organisation's first chief executive when she was appointed in 2012, said: "I have been very privileged to work with so many exceptional businesses and business leaders over the last five years and am pleased to be able to continue to work within the business community in Lancashire with my new role at UCLan."

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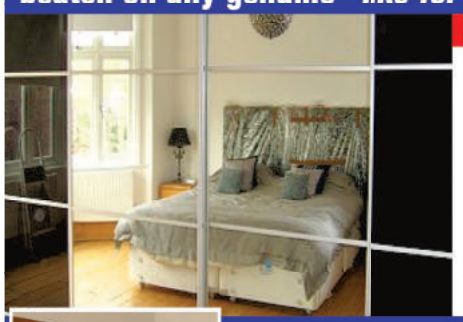

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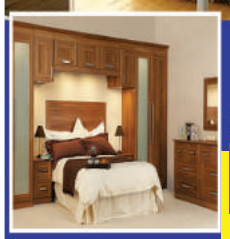

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Row over cost of county council's new interim director of education appointment

Report by **Kenny Parker**

COUNTY Council chiefs have defended the appointment of an Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services at a cost of £1,125 per day - despite claims that it could cost the people of Lancashire "millions of pounds."

The new post, created as part of a senior management restructure, was originally advertised internally with a salary of £137k per annum but remained unfilled. After being re-advertised externally John Readman, who formerly worked for Bristol City Council, was appointed on an interim basis.

County Councillor John Fillis

County Councillor Geoff Driver.

A statement issued by the county council said that the interim appointment was considered urgent following the publication of a damning Ofsted report about the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) service, which the authority runs in conjunction with local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups.

But deputy leader of the Labour group, Skelmersdale East Councillor John Fillis criticised the appointment.

He said: "Following Lancashire County Council's failure to appoint a new Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, they have now decided, under urgent business by the leader of the council supported by the cabinet, to pay £1,125 a day to an Interim Executive Director for an undetermined period. This could result in a cost to the people of Lancashire of £300,000 a year with additional costs.

"Before Christmas the Conservatives used standing order 35 as a reason to push through their senior management restructuring proposals, avoiding consideration by full council and scrutiny through the call-in procedure.

Determined

"They claimed at the time that this restructuring would be cost-neutral, even though there was no actual cost provided to support such a claim.

"It's clear that the Conservative plans would not save money but will actually cost the people of Lancashire millions of pounds."

However, council leader, County Councillor Geoff Driver claimed the Conservative administration was trying to rectify failings of the previous Labour leadership.

He said: "One of Ofsted's serious criticisms concerned Labour's ridiculous management structure which contributed in no small way to the woeful service provided to some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

"We are determined not to have the 'turbulent leadership' which Ofested said prevailed under Labour and the appointment of the Interim Executive Director is necessary to cover the unavoidable prolonged absence of a senior member of staff. It will most certainly not cost the sums claimed by Labour."

Bid to improve links between libraries and Friends

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet has agreed changes to the way it works with Friends of Libraries groups with the aim of making the most of their potential to improve library services in the county.

It is hoped the proposals agreed at a meeting of the cabinet will co-ordinate the way that libraries and Friends groups work together better to support the development of the service and boost engagement with local communities.

The key changes to the Friends of Lancashire Libraries Constitution and Guidance aim to emphasise the role of Friends groups in supporting the service to develop and promote library-based activities rather than simply acting as ambassadors for libraries.

Friends groups carry out a wide variety of roles for their libraries, from helping to spread the word about the services offered, to developing activities and supporting staff with community events.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "Libraries are a vital service at the heart of our communities, offering free access to books and information, as well as being a place where communities can get together.

"Friends groups know their communities best and make a very positive contribution to the library service by adding to the activities libraries can offer, and engaging people in making the most of their local library.

"We are fortunate that so many people want to do something for their local library and the changes agreed seek to provide more clarity for library staff and Friends groups, helping to make the most of their time and energy.

"I hope that they will also encourage new Friends groups by providing a better understanding of their role and the contribution they can make. We want to achieve greater community involvement and an increased sense of ownership, while increasing the opportunities for attracting additional external funding via the Friends groups which can be invested in our libraries."

To find out more about becoming a member of a Friends group at a library near to where you live, call 0300 123 6703 or go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries.

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Members of NHS West Lancashire who took part in a Dementia Friends session.

CCG members sign up to Dementia Friends initiative

MEMBERS of the Dementia Friends movement met up with representatives of the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to discuss different ways they can support people who suffer from the condition.

The Dementia Friends event, held at the CCG's headquarters at Hilldale on the Ormskirk Hospital site, attended by members of the CCG, was hailed a success.

West Lancs GP and chair of the NHS West Lancashire CCG, Dr John Caine, said: "It is vitally important that we support our residents living with dementia and in order to do this, we need to ensure that all of our CCG staff fully understand what is like to live with dementia. We found the Dementia Friends information sessions to be extremely beneficial and I would recommend that everyone looks into being trained."

Legal challenge to county council ruling on halal meat

A DECISION taken by Lancashire County Council in October last year not to provide halal meat - except poultry - to council establishments unless the animal had been stunned before being slaughtered, has been quashed following a legal challenge by the Lancashire Council of Mosques.

The decision, which was not implemented by the council, was made following a free vote but some councillors called for the authority to seek legal advice before proceeding.

At the time the proposal, introduced by council leader, County Councillor Geoff Driver, was labelled "unnecessary and divisive" by Muslim leaders.

Deputy leader of Lancashire's Labour group, Skelmersdale Councillor John Fillis, said: "This is the third time in less than a year that actions by this Conservative administration have been deemed illegal and they have been forced to reconsider. This incompetence is costing the people of Lancashire more and more money, which is being taken from their vital services."

Councillor Driver said: "We are continuing to provide halal meat under the terms of the current contract arrangements while we move to a wider consultation with all interested parties to inform future policy."

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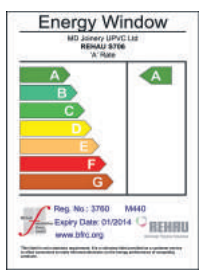

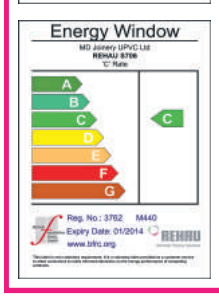

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Above: The West Lancs Warriors basketball club's table-topping under-16s squad

High-flying Warriors aiming to net new recruits

'Basketball is a great way to learn new skills, keep active and make friends'

OFFICIALS and members of a West Lancs sporting club who are currently enjoying a fruitful season have got their sights set firmly on success and expansion.

The 2017-18 campaign has proved encouraging to date for the West Lancs Warriors basketball club.

The club's under-16s and under-14s teams which compete in the National League are both performing admirably.

Coached by Alex Ashcroft, the under-16s are currently sitting at the top of the league, while the under-14s, coached by Elliott Handford, are battling hard for a mid-table place.

Along with the National League teams, the club also runs community sessions open to girls and boys of all abilities in school years 3 to 10 who want to give basketball a try.

These are held every Saturday morning at Edge Hill University's professional-standard dual basketball courts from 10am for school years 3 to 6 and from 11am for years 7 to 10.

A midweek session for developing players also takes place at St Bede's Catholic High School in St Anne's Road, Ormskirk with the first session free to encourage players to try the sport.

Enthusiastic

Meanwhile, the club are hoping to start a local summer league in April which will give the opportunity for participants in the community sessions the chance to try their hands at competitive matches.

The club provides experienced and enthusiastic coaches, who are all DBS-checked and hold Level 2 qualifications, and is one of the biggest providers of youth basketball in the North West, delivering high-quality sessions to more than 100 players.

Warriors' chairman, Mike Lea, said: "Our aim is to encourage as many children as possible to take up and enjoy the sport.

"Basketball is a great way to learn new skills, keep active and make friends.

"We are also grateful for the support we receive from our local sponsors, R. Draper Ltd., Blankstone Sington, Arnage, BBS B roadcast Sound Systems Ltd. and Pers immon Homes."

Anyone wanting more information about the club can email westlancsbasketball@gmail.com or go to the website www.westlancsbasketball.co.uk.

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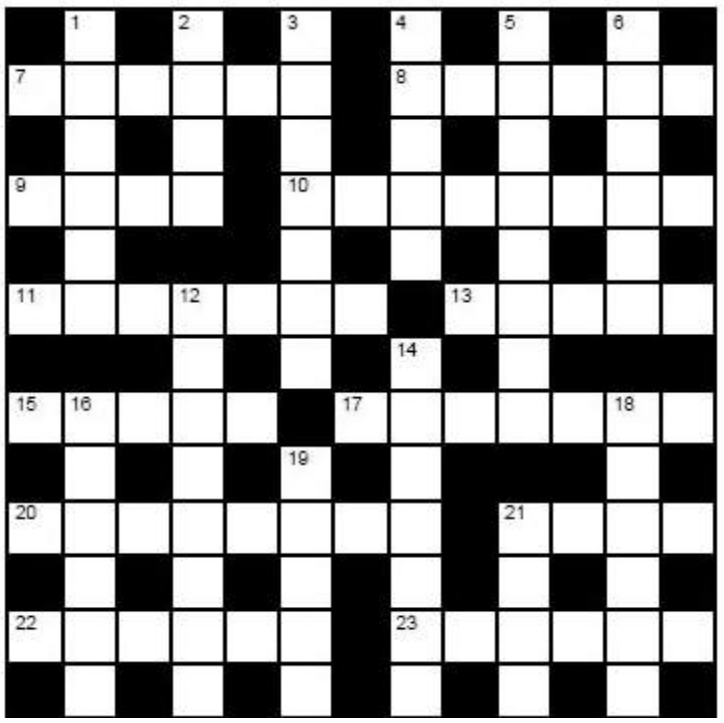

ACROSS

7. Special honour or respect shown publicly (6)
8. Abbreviated term for a system for controlling a room's humidity, ventilation and temperature (3-3)
9. Surety lodged to secure the conditional temporary release of a person awaiting trial (4)
10. Economic activity concerned with manufacture, hard work (8)
11. Sensation (7)
13. Dizzy, light-headed (5)
15. Humorous (5)
17. Realm (7)
20. Amphibian with a deep booming croak, native to North America (8)
21. Back part of the human foot below the ankle (4)
22. The seedpod of a leguminous plant such as peas or beans (6)
23. Member of a legendary race of female warriors (6)

DOWN

1. Large, edible, white-flowered plant of the parsley family (6)
2. Hindmost part of an animal or bird (4)
3. Showing open resistance (7)
4. These can be greetings, birthday or playing, for instance (5)
5. Flavoured sugar topping used to coat and decorate cakes (8)
6. Revolting, unpleasant (6)
12. Canvas-backed material used as floor covering (8)
14. Character or symbol used in typesetting or slang term for a silly or eccentric person (7)
16. Pristine, as new (6)
18. Medium-sized wild cat with orange-yellow coat and black stripes and spots, native to South and Central America (6)
19. Freed from moisture (5)
21. Part of the body above the neck (4)

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Down: 1. Sail. 2. Ethics. 3. Irksome. 4. Sense. 5. Brunei. 6. Home rule. 11. Warmed up. 13. Cluster. 15. Unholy. 17. Motive. 18. Munch. 21. Land.

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School wanted to join in with pond project

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Farmer Chris Molyneux who is keen for schools to get involved with the wildlife project at the ponds

MEMBERS of a natural history group and a local landowner are seeking enthusiastic school children to get involved in a pond-monitoring project.

Since last year, volunteers from West Lancashire Wildlife and Edge Hill University have been monitoring a handful of marl pit ponds in Halsall.

Marl is a clay-like substance that was unearthed and dug out in the 17th and 18th centuries for use as an early soil improver and fertiliser.

Although many marl pits still remain in West Lancashire they are mostly overgrown with trees.

Thanks to financial help from the Lancashire Environmental Fund and a team effort by the volunteers and farmer Chris Molyneux, two marl pit ponds have been opened up and restored, while another two have been left overgrown to see what differences develop in the plants and animal communities living in and around them.

The project is linked to the 'Great Twin Pond Dig' run by University College London, which is comparing the Lancashire ponds to similar ponds in Norfolk. The aim is to raise awareness of these historical marl pits and to demonstrate the benefit of pond restoration to wildlife in farmland.

Now project leader, Helen Greaves and landowner, Chris, want to share their findings with a local school in order to spread the message.

Helen said: "This really is a great opportunity for a class or school to get involved in a real wildlife study which can be linked to all aspects of the National Curriculum including biology, maths, geography and English.

The school's involvement can all be carried out in the classroom, and will be linked to photographic data collected over the summer.

Helen, who is studying for a PhD and has a background in wildlife education, added: "We have designed this study to be carried out in the classroom because we know the pressures on teachers today. However, we can always organise a field trip further down the line if a class is really keen."

Meanwhile, a walk and talk to explain the historical features of the marl pit ponds in more detail has been organised for Saturday February 17 from 10am at the Gorse Hill Nature Reserve in Holly Lane, Aughton. Visitors will also learn what the project has already achieved and about monitoring plans for 2018.

To get involved in the project or take part in the walk and talk, email geog.ponds@ucl.ac.uk or call Helen on 07716162970.

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Breathe Easy group enjoy talk on carers' support charity

COLIN Bowman of the n-compass charity, which is funded by the county council to support unpaid carers throughout Lancashire, was guest speaker at the latest meeting of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group.

He explained that anyone living in Lancashire who is providing help to another person in a voluntary capacity, without which help the cared-for person would not be able to manage, is a carer in this context and can include a friend, neighbour or relative.

N-compass can provide a carer support worker, an experienced, paid member of staff who has a wealth of helpful and relevant information for carers.

Colin stressed that these services provided are for the carer, not for the cared-for person and n-compass does not provide domiciliary care workers.

The Carers' Assessment looks at the physical, emotional and social side of caring and what support can be put in place for the carer. Then a letter is produced, detailing what support can be given or signposting the carer to other organisations.

There is also the possibility of receiving a Carers' Personal Budget, up to £350 once per year, which is non-means tested. Again, this money, if provided, is for the carer, rather than the cared-for person.

Colin explained that an important current initiative is the 'Peace of Mind for Carers' plan which is put in place if anything should happen to the carer and operates like a kind of insurance.

There is also a quarterly newsletter and a volunteer sitting-in service.

Coffee and chat for carers is provided at three places in West Lancashire, including Warbreck Garden Centre and St John's Church in Burscough.

Colin Bowman from the n-compass charity who gave a talk to the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group

None of these services involve any carer losing benefits as this is a stand-alone service. The n-compass contact phone number is 0345 688 7113 and their local offices are open from 8am to 6pm weekdays to provide carers' support.

Meetings of the West Lancs and Southport Breathe Easy group are held on the third Monday of each month, giving advice, support and friendship to those with respiratory disease, their friends and families, under the auspices of their parent organisation, the British Lung Foundation.

Their next meeting will be on Monday, February 19, when a presentation will be made by Shaun Donoghue of the Fire Service. This will begin at 11.15am at the Guide HQ in Green Lane, Ormskirk, next door to Ormskirk Rugby Club.

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Chance to have a ball and raise funds for animal charity

STAFF and supporters of a West Lancashire animal charity will be swapping their cosy dog-walking jumpers for more glamorous attire when they stage their annual fundraising ball in a few weeks time.

The team from Woodlands Animal Sanctuary in Holmeswood will be hosting the glittering event at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Southport on Saturday, March 3 - and tickets are still available.

Sally McDerby from the Sandy Lane sanctuary said: "This is a chance to put on your best gear and help to make a difference for a local charity!

"The ball is always a good night, with a friendly atmosphere and good food and is a superb way to support a very worthwhile and local cause, whilst having a blast with family and friends.

"A live band kicks the evening off, while regular DJ Andy will compere for the evening and provide the play-list for you to dance the night away to.

"With various raffles, including the hotly-contested rose raffle, you will only be asked to delve into your pockets for a short period at the beginning of the evening - then the time's your own to party away with your fellow guests.

"At Woodlands we care for more than 300 animals, every day of the year and as an independent charity, we rely solely upon donations and monies raised from events such as this to fund our work."

Dress code for the event is black tie for men and evening wear for women.

Tickets, which cost £39.50 per person including dinner and table wine, can be ordered by calling 01704 823293 or online by visiting woodlandsanimalsanctuary.org.uk.

Guests at last year's Woodlands Ball

Educate Awards 2018 open for nominations

NOMINATONS are now open for this year's Educate Awards.

Founded in 2012, the awards are the biggest in the sector in the North West, celebrating every aspect of curriculum, teaching and staff. They recognise the work of schools and colleges which are delivering outstanding education and helping students achieve their full potential.

Since the launch in Liverpool, the awards have grown rapidly to include schools and colleges right across the Liverpool City Region, Cheshire and Lancashire. And this year they are expanding into Greater Manchester for the first time.

They are free to enter and open to all primary, secondary, further education providers and special needs schools. In total there are 21 categories including Teacher of the Year, Career Aspiration, School Support Star of the Year and Outstanding Commitment to Sport.

Deadline for entries is midnight on Sunday, June 24.

For further information including full details of how to enter, visit www.educateawards.co.uk.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Award wiining Slimming World Consultant Tina Whewell and her members at Ormskirk Rugby Club are celebrating the start of Free Food February, which is named after the healthy 'Free Foods' that Slimming World members can enjoy without weighing, counting or measuring when losing weight on Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan.

Free Food February is being held in Slimming World groups up and down the UK from 29th January to 3rd March and aims to show how the organisation's members lose weight without hunger and often discover (or rediscover) a love of cooking. It coincides with the publication of Slimming World's latest recipe book Little book of menu.

Members of the groups, which is held every Wednesday at 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm , will create a delicious feast for the event, consisting of hunger busting dishes made entirely from 'Free Foods', which include fruit and veg, pasta, rice, potatoes, lean meat, fish, eggs and more, showing that Slimming World members never need to suffer the hunger pangs that usually see people throwing in the towel on other weight-loss plans.

Tina who has ran successful groups for over 24 years says " New members normally can't believe how much food they can eat and still lose weight. Making small changes to the way they cook their meals means they can still enjoy all of their favourite meals like curries, steak and chips and roast dinners. Every week in our groups we swap recipes and if members ever struggle there has always been someone ready to suggest a new idea or remind us why we shouldn't give up."

The theme of Free Food February is 'love it, cook it, share it' so we'd love to show even more people that healthy eating isn't all carrot sticks and lettuce leaves."

To find out more about Free Food February and losing weight without hunger at Slimming World, pop along to the Tina's Slimming World group, which is held at Ormskirk Rugby Club every Wednesday at 9.30am, 11.30am 5.30pm & 7.30pm , or call Tina on 01515484266.

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Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
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Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
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Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club School Lane
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Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY

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Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
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Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
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Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

FRIDAY

ORMSKIRK
Base Dance Academy Malthouse Business Park Southport Rd
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
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SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
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8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

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Ormskirk Rugby Club Green Lane
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Hayley: 07583 762529

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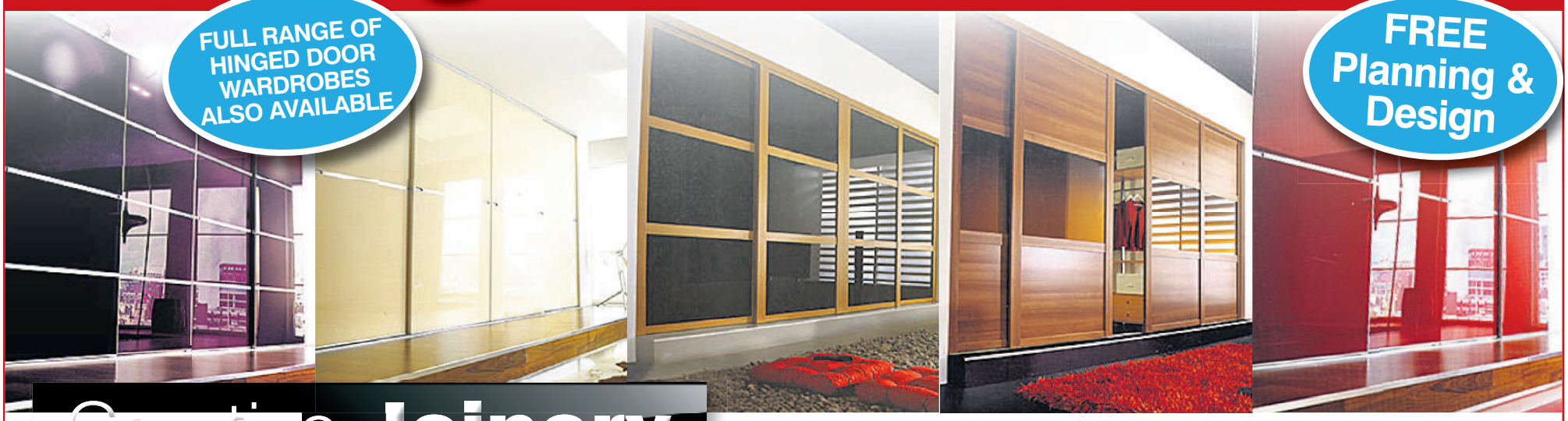

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Battle lines drawn in row over NHS funding

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

CAMPAIGNERS calling for more funding for the NHS gathered at a rally in Southport.

More than 200 people attended the Labour party-backed event in the High Park district of the resort to where they were addressed by, among others, Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram and South Sefton MP Bill Esterson.

The rally came as three MPs in the area squared up to each other over NHS funding this winter at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals.

Statistics for Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, show that 133 patients waited in ambulances for more than half an hour during Christmas week and of those, 60 waited more than an hour. In the same week, bed occupancy rates at the trust were above the nationally accepted 'safe' level of 85% - and on December 28, every bed in Southport and Ormskirk hospitals was occupied.

As a result of NHS Trusts across the country reporting similar struggling figures, the government announced an immediate £337million boost for NHS hospitals earlier this month, plus an extra £2.8billion investment over the next two years.

An additional £1.3million grant will be given to help Southport and Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust to cope with winter pressures.

Swords were drawn in Sefton and West Lancs after Southport's Tory MP Damien Moore, said the move demonstrated that 'under the Conservatives the NHS is receiving more money than ever before.'

He said: "I'm pleased the Government has given the NHS extra support at this critical time of year, when cold weather and flu can increase the pressures on hard-working hospital staff.

"I remind the Labour Party that under the Conservatives the NHS is receiving more money than ever before, and remind the public that it was the Labour Party, who when in power, attempted to carve up Southport Hospital by moving its key services, such as the Children's Centre, to long-standing Labour constituencies like West Lancashire.

"Whilst my colleagues and I are supporting our local NHS by seeing services return, the Labour Party continue to undermine its improvements and success and it is time they stopped scaremongering residents.

Campaigners at the rally in Southport

"Residents should be confident that if and when they need to use the A&E, they will receive first-class treatment."

But his comments infuriated West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper and South Sefton MP Bill Esterson.

West Lancs Labour MP Rosie Cooper hit back saying the problems within the NHS were caused by 'sustained government underfunding.'

She also questioned whether the funding promised 'would ever arrive' and suggested that if it does, it may have 'strings attached.'

"The facts speak for themselves, the NHS is struggling due to sustained underfunding by the government. Reports of scores of residents waiting at A&E for hours and taking up the limited ambulance resource available is deeply concerning.

Concerns

"There are concerns that local demands are not adequately resourced and these concerns need to be investigated, which is why I have tabled a number of questions and met with the hospital about the waiting times in A&E, pressure on the ambulance services, and exactly what financial help has been given and whether some of this money that has been announced has 'strings' attached to it and may never arrive. We need to know whether all planned admissions have been stopped, how many cases they have of delayed transfers of care and whether the Trust is now at level three (with four being the highest) in the escalation management system indicating real problems the Tories cannot just ignore with a few words!

"The NHS is in crisis and the Conservatives will never be forgiven for starving it of the money and staff it desperately needs."

South Sefton MP Bill Esterson weighed in: "The NHS is experiencing its worst winter crisis in recent history and for Damien Moore to describe this pitiful amount of extra funding as anything more than crumbs from the table is entirely misleading. Eight years of austerity in the NHS has led to fewer beds, longer waiting lists, longer waits at A&E and doctors describing 'third world conditions.'

"Billions of pounds has been taken out of social care meaning more people with more complex conditions end up in our hospitals rather than being cared for in the community.

"My constituents don't want to see the NHS privatised, they want a care system that looks after them, not a service cut to the bone.

"I know from personal experience how hard our NHS staff work but cuts are continuing to have a massive negative effect on our NHS.

"Sadly, both Conservative and Lib Dem ministers have cut health and social care, undermined staff and caused real problems for patients."

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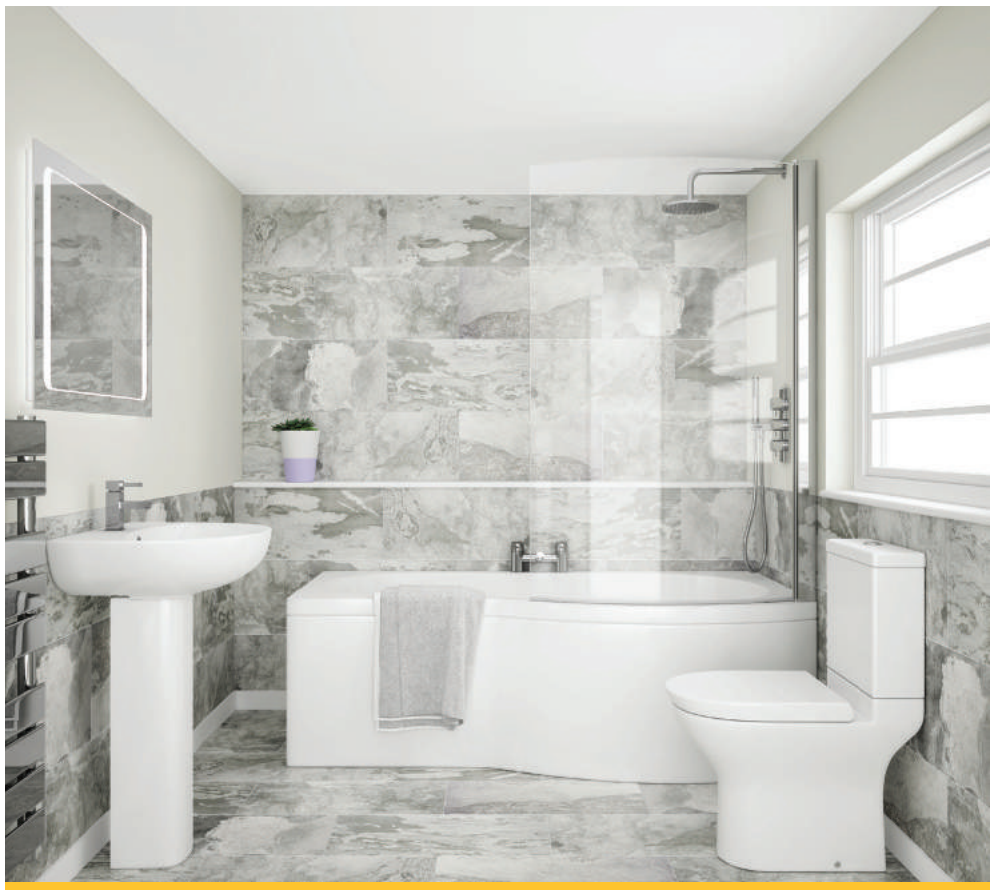

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Stand-up show from comedian highlight of season at centre

A FUN-PACKED spring season at The Arts Centre at Edge Hill University will feature a stand-up show from comedian Joel Dommett as one of its highlights.

The I'm a Celebrity… 2016 runner-up, English Comedian of the Year finalist and SKINS contributor will perform at the Ormskirk venue on Saturday, February 17.

Cathy Butterworth, arts manager at Edge Hill University said: "It's a real treat to have a household name like Joel Dommett playing such an intimate venue.

"When we asked students who they would like to see on campus, Joel's name rated highly and we hope to feature more of their favourite big names in comedy, music and performing arts each season.

"Joel heralds a really fun, light Spring season at the Arts Centre with a raft of acclaimed work across many genres and art forms."

Other comedy highlights include the award-winning, energetic Hiccup Project with comedic dance theatre production May-We-Go-Round? (Feb 8) and acclaimed playwright, novelist and performer Alan Bissett with a double bill of his rip-roaring 'one woman shows' The Moira Monologues and (MORE) Moira Monologues (Mar 6). Panel show regular Hardeep Singh Kohli also brings his unique take on the political climate (Mar 10).

Music gigs include world renowned British vocal ensemble I Fagiolini performing Piatto Misto (Feb 1); The Long Wave, a collaboration between turntablist Philip Jeck and composer/musician Jonathan Raisin (Feb 5) and psych-folk trio Stealing Sheep with a one-off specially created Edge Hill extravaganza (Mar 9).

Joel Dommett. Picture by Matt Crockett.

One of the finest upcoming writers in the country, Daisy Johnson, who won the long-established Edge Hill Prize for the Short Story in 2017, will visit to give a reading from her weird and wonderful short story collection, Fen (Feb 13).

Edge Hill Performing Arts alumnus Ryan Leder, winner of the University's Janet Suzman Playwriting Prize, will bring his award-winning play Numbered Days, a stark look at love in the digital age, on February 26 and 27.

CIVICS, a major exhibition of works by renowned visual and performance artist André Stitt, continues to run until April. The exhibition brings together a significant number of works responding to the legacy of Britain's New Towns and post-war brutalist architecture and will include work made during 2016 and 2017, based on several research trips to the nearby new town of Skelmersdale.

For more information visit www.edgehill.ac.uk/artscentre to see the full season listings and to book online. Tickets can also be booked in person at the box office or by calling 01695 584 480.

Country singer taking to town's theatre stage

A NIGHT of storytelling in the richest vein is on the cards as Charlie Landsborough takes to the Southport Theatre stage on Thursday, February 1 .

Charlie is generally recognised and categorised as a country singer, however, as his regular supporters will tell you, country music actually only accounts for a very small part of his concert repertoire and music catalogue in general.

It is of course understandable that Charlie has been labelled as a country singer, as he has won just about every award possible in the UK country scene.

He has won a list of awards too numerous to mention in full, including Best Songwriter, Best Song, Best Male Vocalist, Best Album and International Country Album of the year.

He has also received a nomination as Best Global Country Artist in the Country Music Association Awards in Nashville. Many of his albums have topped the country charts as well as getting into the British pop charts.

His talent and ability received the ultimate recognition when he was inducted into the British Country Music Hall of Fame in 2011 - "for promoting and for services to the advancement of Country Music in Great Britain and in recognition of outstanding contributions, leadership and service to the British Country Music industry". This is an achievement Charlie is very proud of.

However Charlie is a performer who is difficult to categorise, as he covers many areas of the musical landscape from ballads, to folk, blues, country, rock 'n' roll, pop, gospel and anthem. A spokesperson for Southport Theatre said: "Anyone who has listened to Charlie's music would agree that he shows a depth of compassion and understanding which seems almost incongruous to his simplistic yet captivating style.

"Charlie is a true and immensely talented star, a well proven writer of fabulous songs, and well known and well loved for his wonderful voice, but it is in his ability to tell a fine tale that we find a hidden gem."

Actor had audience 'applauding in delight'

Review by **Ron Ellis**

One For The Road by Willy Russell
Southport Dramatic Club
Little Theatre Southport

THERE were shades of Alan Ayckbourn and Abigail's Party in Willy Russell's study of two upwardly mobile Liverpool couples on a newly built housing estate.

Pauline (Jennifer Cocoran) tries to live up to their snobbish neighbours, Roger and Jane, but her husband, Dennis (Tony O'Keefe), is sick of the world of garden gnomes, John Denver records and Hachis Parmentier (a.k.a. cottage pie) and starts to assert his dissatisfaction by declaring that people should be allowed to swear if they want to, whereupon he proceeds to demonstrate his point.

When Jane (Samantha Roberts) puts his opinions down to problems in his sex life, possibly caused she suggests, by premature ejaculation, the fun starts.

Meanwhile, Paul Wilkinson, in his element as Roger, stole the show with a Herculean performance as he launched into stories of his own achievements, becoming more drunk by the minute, and the scene when he persuades Dennis to pretend to be Terry Wogan introducing him as a celebrity on his TV show, had the audience applauding in delight.

Having said that, comedy is very much a personal taste. Willy Russell has written some intelligent and insightful plays, such as 'Educating Rita' and 'Blood Brothers' (a forthcoming SDC Youth production in May), but this isn't one of them.

Yes, there were several good jokes and certainly the audience laughed throughout but, as time went on, I found the two couples insufferable and their crass behaviour was becoming more inane by the minute.

One For The Road would have made a good half hour radio show but, after a while, it became obvious the plot was a one trick pony and going nowhere.

Happily, it finished at 9.30pm.

Star Rating 6 out of 10. A lot of laughs and good acting but, ultimately, saved by the bell.

Squeeze star bringing his book and acoustic tour to Atkinson

CHRIS Difford is a rare breed - as a member of one of London's best-loved bands, the Squeeze co-founder has made a lasting contribution to English music with hits such as Cool For Cats, Up The Junction, Labelled With Love, Hourglass and Tempted.

He will be bringing his latest tour to The Atkinson in Southport on Saturday, March 24.

Despite the fact that Chris has helped soundtrack so many fans' lives since his first release in 1977, the passion for innovation and love of playing still drives him to carry on writing rather than sit back and admire his handiwork.

March 2018 sees Chris on tour with Boo Hewerdine on his extensive Some Fantastic Acoustic Book Tour. The dates take them to Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all over the UK. An American tour is also being planned for May.

There is a paperback version of the book coming out with an extra chapter carefully composed as a bonus read. Chris will regale the audience about some of the key events in his life in music from his autobiography Some Fantastic Place and perform some of his biggest hits acoustically alongside tracks from 'Pants', a best of album.

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ENQ. 07976 915220
Refreshments Available

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★2 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
2, 9, 16, 23 Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Apr 11, 18 May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jun	5, 12, 19, 26 Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 May 4, 11, 18, 25 Jun
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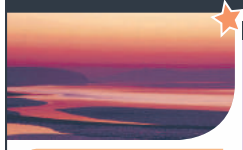

• Seafront • Lift • Car Park • Entertainment

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2, 9, 16, 23 Feb 2, 23 Mar 6, 20, 27 Apr 11, 18 May	19, 26 Feb 19, 26 Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 May
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DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST INCLUDED

★2 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
9, 16, 23 Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Apr 11, 18, 25 May	12, 19, 26 Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 May
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Tribute Act & Hotel included

All breaks include dinner, bed & breakfast

Blackpool — Savoy Hotel — 99p BAR* Selected dates

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 2 Feb	Freddie Mercury	Robbie Williams	£69.95
Fri 9 Feb	Neil Diamond	Michael Buble	£69.95
Fri 16 Feb	Dolly Parton	Johnny Cash	£69.95
Fri 23 Feb	ABBA (Duo)	Tina Turner	£69.95
Fri 16 Mar	Diana Ross	Lionel Richie	£79.95
Fri 23 Mar	Meatloaf	Cher	£79.95

*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

Llandudno — Risboro Hotel

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 2 Mar	Rod Stewart	Elton John	£85
Fri 6 Apr	Lionel Richie	Diana Ross	£85

Scarborough — Grand Hotel — 99p BAR* Selected dates

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 2 Feb	Rod Stewart	Elton John	£69.95
Fri 9 Feb	Elvis	Tom Jones	£69.95
Fri 16 Feb	Neil Diamond	Michael Buble	£79.95
Fri 23 Feb	Johnny Cash	Dolly Parton	£79.95
Fri 2 Mar	Freddie Mercury	Robbie Williams	£79.95

*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

Skegness — County Hotel

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 16 Feb	Lionel Richie	Diana Ross	£79.95
Fri 2 Mar	Elton John	Rod Stewart	£79.95

Southport — Scarisbrick Hotel — 99p BAR* Selected dates

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 2 Feb	Lionel Richie	Diana Ross	£69.95
Fri 9 Feb	Elton John	Rod Stewart	£69.95
Fri 16 Feb	Garth Brooks	Shania Twain	£79.95
Fri 23 Feb	Neil Diamond	Michael Buble	£79.95
Fri 2 Mar	Johnny Cash	Dolly Parton	£79.95

*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

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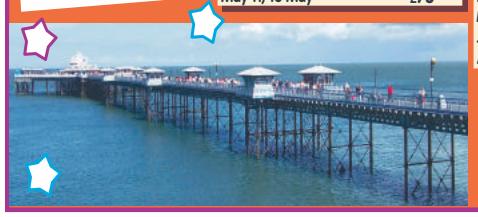
2 NTS Friday	
Feb 2, ♥9, ♥16, 23	£55
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23	£55
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	£65
May 11, 18 May	£75

3 NTS Friday	
Feb ♥16, 23	£79.95
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23	£79.95
Mar BH 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	£99.95
May BH 4 Victorian Extravaganza, 11, 18	£109.95
May BH 25, Jun 1, 8, 15, 22	£129.95
Jul 6, 13, 20, 27	£129.95
Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£129.95

4 NTS Monday	
Feb 5, ♥12, 19, 26	£99.95
Mar 5, 12, 19, 26	£109.95
Apr BH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£129.95
May BH 7, 14, 21	£149.95
May BH 28, Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	£169.95
Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£169.95
Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£169.95



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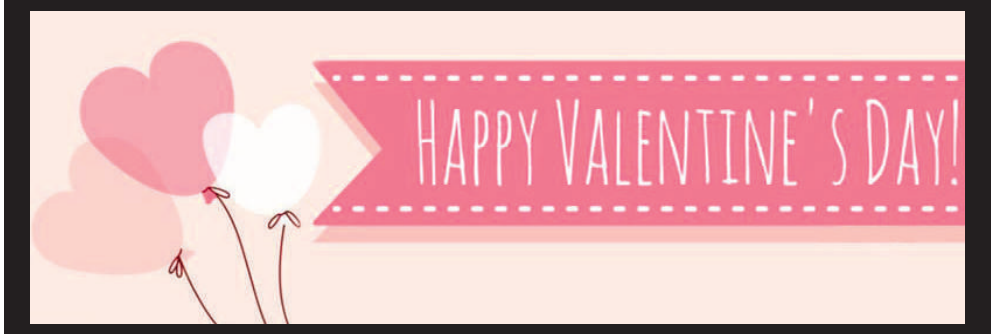
TREAT THE ONE YOU LOVE THIS VALENTINE'S



Treat the one you love this Valentine's Day Wednesday February 14th

You can choose either to dine from our extensive A La Carte menu or from Chef's fixed price 2-course menu priced from **£16.99** … Plus we will have a lovers sharing plate of home made desserts available

Booking required. £10 non-refundable deposit required to secure the booking.

Why not stay a while with our VALENTINE'S LOVE DEAL

Includes an overnight stay in a king-sized or twin bedded room
Candle lit Valentine's meal from
Chef's 2-course fixed price menu
Full cooked English breakfast to round off your stay...

All for only £120 per couple
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The advertised price is correct as of 30 October 2017 and is based upon departure from Liverpool airport on 3 June 2018.

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Price Includes...

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- ✔ Services of an English-speaking representative

VIEW ONLINE AT
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Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability. †We have included the current flight price within the above package price. Should the cost of flights change the package price may vary. The final price will be confirmed to you at time of booking.

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Return coach travel from Southport

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Flower Show and Oxford

Departing Friday 25 May 2018

Take inspiration from the patchwork of show gardens and vibrant plant displays as we join the gardening glitterati at Chelsea, the show all the top professionals want to be known for, with hundreds of exhibitors striving for the horticultural prize of prizes, a Chelsea Gold Medal.

Price Includes...

- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London/Reading area hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✔ Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show, with coach transfer
- ✔ Free time in Oxford

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

Quote Code: URV359
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www.omega-holidays.com/URV359

BLENHEIM PALACE

Flower Show & Stratford Upon Avon

Departing Saturday 23 June 2018

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Price Includes...

- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Midlands area hotel with 3-course dinner & full English breakfast
- ✔ Admission to the Parks and Gardens, and the Flower Show on Sunday (upgrade +£10pp for Palace admission)
- ✔ Free time in Stratford-upon-Avon

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

Quote Code: DGC180
View product online at
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Omega Holidays Ltd, ABTA V4782.

For more information or to book, please call:
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Entertainments

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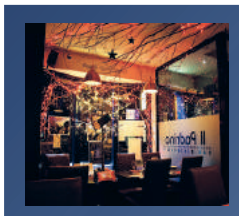
DINING OUT



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STCC SOUTHPORT Southport Theatre & Convention Centre

ATG TICKETS

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THEATRES

WHAT'S ON AT SOUTHPORT THEATRE

FEBRUARY

01	AN EVENING WITH CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH
02	JOE BROWN
02	SUPERSLAM WRESTLING
03	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - THE ADELE SONGBOOK
10	THE LITTLE MIX EXPERIENCE
10	FRON MALE VOICE CHOIR An extraordinary mix of classical, sacred and modern music
16	HELLO AGAIN - THE STORY OF NEIL DIAMOND
17	MONEY FOR NOTHING Europe's No.1 Dire Straits show
21	MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL Starring Cheryl Fergison (EastEnders) and Maureen Nolan (The Nolans)
22	THE ROCKET MAN A tribute to Sir Elton John
23	THE ROLLING STONES STORY
24	RUSSELL WATSON: CANZONI D'AMORE

MARCH

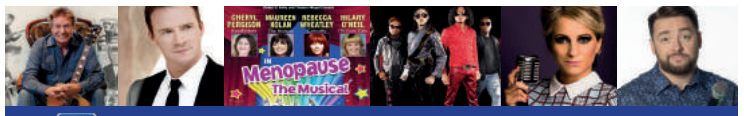
01	MACCA: THE CONCERT Celebrating the music of Paul McCartney and the Beatles
02	BACK TO BACHARACH A night of memorable and iconic hits
03	THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
12/13	TIDDLER AND OTHER TERRIFIC TALES Live music, puppetry & colourful characters from Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's best-loved titles. Four performances over two days. Suitable for all ages
17	THE HOLLIES

MARCH CONT

18	THE BARRICADE BOYS Stars of Les Misérables live in one revolutionary concert
19	YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND Celebrating the music of James Taylor and Carole King
20	JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT - WHO'S BAD Show dedicated to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson
21	SMOKIE
22	JOE LONGTHORNE
23	THINK FLOYD
24	KATHERINE RYAN - GLITTER ROOM
27	ENGLAND LEGENDS LIVE An evening with Peter Reid, Peter Beardsley and Phil Thompson
28	DUSTY AND THE SHADES OF THE 60S Celebrating the life and music of one of the most iconic female artistes of our time
29	WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT A stunning celebration of the music, the life, the star
30	HEATWAVE & THE VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE, GWEN DICKEY

APRIL

04	JAMES BOND CONCERT SPECTACULAR The best music from the 007 movies
07	LES MCKEOWN AND THE LEGENDARY BAY CITY ROLLERS
13	JASON MANFORD - MUDDLE CLASS
26	THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES The ultimate guitar show paying homage to Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Brian May and many more



Southport Theatre & Convention Centre

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ALVASTON HALL HOTEL
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5 days £239
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LADIES LAURA ASHLEY Brand new handbag real leather with £79 labels now £25 no text withheld number and other make bags for sale 07504685036

KATHY VAN ZEELAND Ladies brand new modern shoulder bag with labels and dust bag oyster colour £70 now £24 no text withheld number 07504685036

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MANTARAY BOOTS LADIES B'new with £90 label dark brown real leather low heel now £30 no texts withheld numbers 07504685036

LADIES SUEDE BOOTS B'new red herring black suede size 5 no zip style low heel q'sale £20 no texts withheld number 07504685036

MANTARAY LADIES BOOTS B'new £90 labels dark brown real leather low heel size 5 g8 buy q'sale £30 no text withheld number 07504685036

BLACK LEATHER jacket, size 16 brand new £20 LADIES morning gowns, sizes L & M white soft brushed cotton. Brand new £10 each 01704461083

CLOTHING

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LADIES BOOTS brown knee length size 7 faux leather fleece lined side zip unworn brand new bargain £8 01704220356

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MAN BAG DEBENHAMS B'new dark brown faux leather g8 style £24 unwanted xmas gift no texts withheld number 07504685036

LADY'S FAUX FUR jacket, light fawn colour, suitable for special occasion good as new size 12/14 Bargain £12 01704579119

LADY'S SPRING JACKET brand new, fully lined, fawn colour. Size 14, never worn. Bargain £10 01704579119

CLOTHING

CORD TROUSERS M&S gents. 36 inch waist, 31 inch inside leg. Never worn. Too small. Fawn colour. £14 ono. 01704 893038

LEATHER COAT ladies 3/4 length real black leather coat with belt never worn size 14 £50.00 07790791733

T.SHIRTS Hurst England no 10 retro 1966 red large £10 ono, England world champions 1966 red large £5 07790791733

LADIES COAT black 3/4 length size 22 fully lined as new worn once bargain £8 01704220356

LARGE COLLECTION of men's clothes, can deliver local £20 the lot 01704884564

BLACK LADIES UGG ankle boots -size 7(41) with faux fur edging. VGC. £10 07855222552

FOOTBALL SHIRT official mens red football shirt "umbro" 2006-2008 large £15 07790791733

M&S JACKET. New, red, size 18 £24 01513845268

COMPUTING

LENOVOT430 LAPTOPI5 Windows10Pro i5 2.6GHz 4GB Ram 300GB HardDrive Good Battery & Charger WebCam Wifi.Office AntiVirus.Collection Southport £150 07511 244183

DELL E4310 Laptop with fast I5 2.4Ghz, genuine Windows 10, MS Office, DVDRW, charger. Excellent battery, excellent condition and perfect working order £175 01704831977

COMPUTING

IBM R61I Laptop core duo 1.5Ghz, genuine Windows 10, MS Office, DVDRW, charger. Excellent battery, As New condition and perfect working order £145 01704831977

COMPUTER DESK Light Oak on castors 32"Wx19"Hx31"H pull out shelf, other shelves for printer, tower etc, good condition £15 01695726001/07801 347908

OFFICE/COMPUTER CHAIR Gas lift chair in two tone grey office/computer chair without arms. In new condition. £18 01704 546978

IPAD MINI3 Unlocked to any network, excellent condition full working order, original box, cable and charger, ultra thin smart case £200 01704831977

COMPUTER DESK/WORKSTATION plenty of shelf and storage space in beech wood may deliver £30 ono 01515263851

IPHONE SE Brand new, unwanted upgrade, silver white, 32GB, unlocked, original box etc, bargain £260 01704831977

COMPUTER TOWER with monitor keyboard desk and printer £60 0151 2863686

NINTENDO WII controls and 28 games. 2 are Mario games. Can deliver local 01704 884564

HP SCANJET XPA transparacy adaptor 5470C & 3400C any offers over £30 07790800573

DIY

VEE BLOCKS matched pair double sided vees & slots for clamps, not supplied accurately hardened and ground. Size W2"xD2"xL2.5" Excellent condition £28 01704874084

ENGINEERS SQUARE by Roebuck 6" blade conforms B.S.939 grade B manufactured to close tolerances high quality grade steel. Brand new sealed & boxed £8 01704874084

PETZL HELMETS 2 high quality yellow helmets, no peak, for working at height. Excellent condition. £25 each. Ainsdale area 01704 579963

SINK TAP New & Boxed from Howdens, A Lamona Chrome Cubic Single Lever Sink Unit Tap, Including all Fittings £75 ono 0151 2341794

ROOTS COVERALLS Flame retardant, 44ins. chest, 3 red, 1 orange, new £30 per pair. Ainsdale area 01704 579963

SAFETY LADDER Easylife. 4 steps, side safety rails attached. As new. £25.00 ono. RRP £79.00. 01695 574378

BELFAST SINK 24x18x8 v.g.c. and Bronze Antique Tap £60 01704 505069

HARDHATS 2 new green hardhats £5 each. Ainsdale area 01704 579963

SNAP-ON TOOL BOX Four draws top sections £25 maghull area 0151 4760521

DOOR INTERIOR 15 glass pane 6'7" x 2'6" £5 01704228670

GARDENING

GARDEN ORNAMENT Hedgehog Garden Ornament. Beautifully detailed realistic ornament on small base in heavy, composite grey stone. Measures 23cms (9 ins) long, 14cms (5.5 ins) wide and 13cms (5 ins) high. £18 01704 546978

BIRD NESTING boxes-6. H7.5"/W6"/D7"-22mm bird hole. Removable lid for easy cleaning. Solid structure. Brown £6.50 each 07855222552

FENCE PANELS good condition. Bare. 6 x 6ft by 5ft. Paint to your own colour. Buyer collects. £6.00 each. 07927630751

LARGE ANTIQUE cast iron rainwater hopper, dated 1906 £25 Ormskirk 07553928344

PETROL CANS Used petrol cans £2 each 07897228418

HOBBIES

ROYAL ALBERT COLLECTION. A choice of Royal Albert figures. Four miniature Street Vendors, three with boxes and all new. Also three figurines, Autumn Stroll, Spring Time and Rose of the Glen again all new and in original packaging. Ideal collectors lot. All sold at various prices 07387439004

STRETTON PAYNE and Dreadnought 6 string acoustic guitar. £40 o.n.o 01704 809077

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT Dyaco International Total Core Apparatus never used folds for carrying and storing £15 ono 07968914294

DRAWING INKS Windsor & Newton 8 in total. Bought for class that didn't run - Unused In original packaging Cost £17.99 Offers 01704 896402

ILFORD ADVOCATE 35mm camera excellent condition from early fifties with case exposure meter and flash £110 ono. 01695 420950

FISHING REEL ABU Cardinal 57 spinning reel and spare spool very good condition. Quality fishing reel for Salmon/ Carp. £100 ono 07979680505

PORCH AWNING £50.Aalvio Wheelclamp £90 Pressure reducing hoses x 2 £25 each. Winterhoff WS3000 hitch lock £30 01772 816323

IBENEZ V Dreadnought acoustic guitar, nice low action, fast neck, clean tone, new strings plus spare matching set £95 01704831977

HOBBIES

CAMERA Cannon Powershot SX610HS. Boxed good as new plus 8gb memory card. £60 o.n.o 0151 9321725

MEERKAT BOOKS Brand new hardback were £6 each volume of 6 all for £18 g8 titles no text withheld numbers 07504685036

BOSS BR8 8 track recorder. Mint condition with power unit, instruction manual & 4 zip discs. £50 01695 720161

SQUIRE CLASSIC Vibe, 50's style telecaster. Butterscotch blonde maple neck electric guitar. V.G.C. £200.00 01704 232568

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WIGAN FOOTBALL programmes home and away 1970's, 1980's x 150 £20 07802638376

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GOLF CLUBS ladies, Wilson Patty Berg with bag £25 0151 9281955

CARAVAN MOTORHOME 25 metre electric lead £10 07855977802

CARAVAN MOTORHOME New Kampal 10 metre electric lead bagged £10 07855977802

MOTORHOME Two axle stand stabilisers in excellent condition £20 07855977802

MOTOR HOME Two Thule level up ramps.great condition £15 07855977802

HOBBIES

WINDBREAKS Two 4 metre windbreaks. Never used. Multi coloured £20 07855977802

REVLON PEDICURE spa set £22 01513845268

OVERLOCKER FOUR thread. As new. £100. 01704 536077

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

VIDEOS. Approximately 100 videos, John Wayne, Humphrey Bogart, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and many more. Only 20 pence each, buyer takes the lot. £20 07387439004

PEAVEY XRD680 Portable 8channel Amplifier. Tested this with a microphone in the inputs on the front and 1 to 7 seem fine. Collection Southport £80 07511 244183

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PANASONIC PORTABLE CD Radio Tape Player with remote control.RX-ES25.Mains power cable supplied, can be run from batteries also.Collection Southport £40 07511 244183

RECORD DECK SONY PS-LX56 Stereo Servo Controlled Turntable.Fully working with good stylus and phono audio cable connections.Collection Southport £25 07511 244183

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

TOSHIBA TV 19 inch screen, suitable for bedroom or caravan complete with remote control. Perfect working order. £25 07803421992 (Southport)

IPHONE6 UNLOCKED Almost as new condition. Screen protector/ case always been on it. Fully boxed. 1st to see will buy. £165 Ono 07968557915

OFFICE FURNITURE Maple curved office desk with three cable ports. 160 cm x 160 cm with free standing pedestal. £50. 07747 616679

SAMSUNG TELEVISION 26 Inch Television - HDMI USB Freeview & modern slim - Stand & Remote control LT27B300EW. Collection Southport. £65 07511 244183

APPLE IPHONE6S Excellent condition, EE Network, Boxed, 16GB, Silver/Black Screen, No faults. Collection Southport.£190 07511 244183

TV STAND black glass & chrome legs. 78cm long, 45cm deep. With lower glass shelf. Free. 01695 729564

DVD BOXSET Flying Doctors entire series. 221 episodes on 46 discs. £90 or exchange for Police Rescue Boxset 01695 721719

XBOX360 CONSOLE plus 2 controllers and Xbox kinect. £70 o.n.o. 0151 9321725

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PLAY STATION 2 games 25 discs some brand new offers 07977 300826

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MARBLE FIREPLACE Modern Type with Electric Coal effect fire. Height 40 inch, overall width 46 inch, VGC £185 Tel 0151 9204305

TWO WOODEN TABLES Small drop leaf solid wooden tables, 19" high, 15" across when open. Folds down for easy storage, ideal for small room, flat or even a caravan. Width when fully closed only 4". Price for each table. £10 07387439004

ELECTRIC TOASTER Four slice. Swan brand, variable width high lift toaster in a smart yellow colour. Crumb tray and electronic browning control. Very clean as new condition. £12 01704 546978

CONSERVATORY BLINDS White Wooden slatted Blinds. VGC, measurements 4x200cmx150cm drop, 2x132cmx150cm drop , 1x110cmx200cm drop. All matching £300 ONO 07788424984

CREAM SOFA'S Two Laura Ashley sofa's in Cream Chenille 1 good condition £45 1 excellent condition £145 Will sell separate or together from pet free smoke free home 07919406540

GOOD QUALITY Matching Solid Mahogany TV Unit, Coffee Table & Sideboard, High Polish Finish Originally Paid £1500 will accept £400 Buyer to Collect 0151 2341794

DINING TABLE and 6 chairs, extends with matching sideboard. WALL UNIT, dark solid rosewood Stag make. Excellent condition. Buyer collects £50 01744885236

TRADITIONAL WOOD dining table & four chairs W81cm x L122cm extends to 153cm & 183cm. Excellent condition ring for photo. £65 ORMSKIRK 07762490184

DOUBLE BED 4'6" Myers 4 drawers 20cm mattress, good quality, clean condition £60 AEG Lavamat washing machine, user manual good clean working order £80 01772812767

SLUMBERLAND sofa bed, excellent condition. Hardly used, mock suede fabric, cream colour.Metal frame folds out in seconds, pet/smoke free home£110 07709029382

RANGEMASTER TOLEDO 110 dual fuel, triple oven, separate grill, 5 burners and warming plate. Black and chrome. Excellent condition. Aughton area. £400 07772 757818

BOOKCASE John Lewis light wood effect bookcase, four internal shelves, 150cmx100cmx33cm, photograph available on request. £40. Ainsdale 07896115800

PANASONIC VACUUM Panasonic MC-E3002 1900 W Upright Vacuum Cleaner Excellent Condition. Includes 5 Spare Cleaner Bags. £35.00 01772 437101

BEIGE LOUNGE curtains (64"x54") - self colour but with classic design embroidered into material. Triple box pleat. Bought at Debenhams. VGC £150. 07855222552

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HOUSE AND HOME

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MICROWAVE FAN OVEN GRILL Sharp Jet Convection Microwave 900watt high power.It works really well and is very heavy and larger in size.Collection Southport £45 07511 244183

ELECTRIC FIRE with pebbles, in black surround, remote control, booklet with full fitting instructions. 2 settings 1000& 2000W very modern, hardly used£50ono 07935641474

M&S THREE SEATER CONSERVATORY SOFA Golden Colour £100 Tel 01704 562328

HALL ROBE Shabby chic style, in cream, with mirrored door, wood carving and finial.87cm x 36cm x 210 cm tall. £40 ono. 07752568443

NESCAFE Dolce Gusto Automatic pod coffee machine by Delongi . in black cost over £100 used twice unwanted gift bargain £40 01704220356

ICE CREAM and sorbet maker by Duronic 1.2 l capacity clear viewable lid brand new boxed with accessories and instructions bargain £15 01704220356

BOOKCASE, MAHOGANY Colour. 6ft high X 3ft wide, with 4 adjustable shelves, good quality, nice condition. £50 01704 530137

INSTANT HOT Water Boiler,brand new,stainless steel,water filter. touch screen controls,saves boiling a kettle. Cost £65 will sell for. £40 01704 530137

LAURA ASHLEY 2 settees for sale in duck egg blue. One also folds out into a double bed. Excellent condition. £500 07734438261

ELECTRIC FIRE Dimplex Castillo chrome with white pebbles or coals. Fits flat to wallH26in W24in D9in. new £249 used £80 ono 0151 9321725

COFFEE TABLE Teak with 2 tables and drinks cabinet below. Top swivels to double in size. H21 in W34.5 in D19.5in £80ono 0151 9321725

DINING TABLE Stokers glass and chrome round foldable dining table and 4 cream and chrome chairs. VGC. Paid £500. Price £100 07583896264

HALL TABLES 2 No Matching Semi Circular Hall Tables with Detailed Glass Inset Tops, Light Oak Finish, Any Reasonable Offer Accepted. 0151 2341794

G PLAN bedroom furniture in light beech. Dressing table, two bedside cabinets and wardrobe all in good condition. £90 01704879568

BEDROOM STORAGE box with hinged cushioned top. 30ins long 16ins wide, 24ins high. Pink faux suede covering.£25. 01515269856

CORNER UNIT Black Leather one side and anthrite fabric on reverse will sit up to 5/6 people. Very Good Condition. £100 ono 07790 348680

SWAN TEASMADE Brand new boxed white with timer clock etc 2 cup unwanted gift cost approx £59 now £28 no text witheldnumber 07504685036

CURTAINS Light green lined pencil pleat curtains approx 66(168) x72(183) excellent condition Maghull area £25 0151 4760521

CURTAINS Mid blue and cream flowed pattern cotton curtains pencil pleat with tie backs 66(168) X 72(183)approx. maghull area £25 0150 4760521

CURTAINS Blue green broad stripe pencil pleat cotton curtains with tie backs 66(168)x72(183) approx Maghull area £20 0151 4760521

LOW VOLTAGE economical Remoska Cooker use instead of the oven, great for caravans includes 2 recipe books £100 01515202008

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HOUSE AND HOME

CURTAINS Pair of 63" drop pinch pleat valance tie backs. £15. Good condition, curved black wall mounted electric fire £15 0151 4747791

SOFA almost new. Hardly used. 3 seater clothe light grey. Next furniture. Cost £680 bargain £260 ono 01704 260906/07860666955

LARGE SOFA bed cream in colour, bought in Stokers, easy set up space needed £75 ONO BEDDING/TOY box strong £20 01704893107

DINING TABLE & 6 chairs. Glass & chrome table. Brown leather seats, chrome frame. £90 ono. 3ftx5ft radiator. £30. Mirror gilt frame. £25 0151 5201426

DESK/WORKSTATION PLENTY of shelf and storage space in beech wood 133 cms high and 77 cms wide may deliver £30 ono 01515263851

OBLONG WALL MIRROR (52"x17")-mahogany wooden frame with carved edging/gold gilt inlay. Ex con. £30 07855222552

IKEA TABLE Oak Bjursta Round Extendable Table & 4 Chairs. The table measures approx 45" across, extending to 65". £130 07552995114

VAX UPRIGHT HOOVER as new plus accessories. £50 o.n.o 01704 809077

WALL LIGHTS 4 double lights in grey metal ornate (difficult to describe) excellent condition £40 01704220356

CURTAIN POLE 9ft.(274cm.) Dark wood c/w. Ferials & curtain rings £10 Formby Area 01704 876031

KENWOOD CHEFETTE Food mixer, with pyrex bowl and stand, 3 speeds and cover, good condition £10 01704 530137

COFFEE GRINDER Electric, in stainless steel, brand new unused, cooks professional. £5 01704 530137

FIREPLACE sandstone effect MDF with built in light and matching large mirror. H44in W57in D18in. £60 ono 0151 9321725

DINING SET Teak extending table H72in W59-78in D32in with 4 dark brown leather chairs. £100 ono 0151 9321725

LEATHER SUITE Brown leather large 2 seater sofa and matching leather chair. Very Good Condition. £150. 07583896264

5 CAKE STANDS one tier g8 for occasions £4 each nice designs no text or withheld numbers 07504685036

CURTAINS Mid blue linen effect thermal lined 66(168) x 72(182) excellent condition maghull area £25 0151 4760521

CURTAINS Navy blue spotted curtains with tie backs 66(168) x 72(180)approx. £20 0151 4760521

MAHOGANY 1930 Fire surround, 53" by 52" cast iron log basket 22" x 10" £90 07908390236

HOUSE AND HOME

CHEST OFDRAWERS upcycled chalk painted 36x31x16 inches blue green beige can email photos £20 07805484381

OVAL DINING table and four high backed chairs with cream seats, mahogany, very nice condition £75 01514767482

LAZYBOY leather 3 seat recliner settee, good condition £100 ONO, buyer to collect 01695580704

SINGLE BED divan with storage drawers complete with headboard, mattress and duvet. Hardly used. £50 01704 533179

RUSSELL HOBBS microwave, white, good condition with instruction book £20 01772812767

HAND STEAMER Elitech new unused £10 VAX upright cleaner for carpet £20 Can deliver local. No offers 01704884564

TWO SEATER leather sofa. Pet & smoke free home. Very good condition. £90.00 ono. 0151 5261442

3 PIECE suite by Stokers. Very good condition. Due to bereavement. FREE to a person who can collect. 07557109977

INTERIOR DOORS x 2. Hardwood. 2'6 across 6'6. 15 pane clear glass. £15 each. 01695 571480

THREE LIGHT ceiling fitting with three glass shades in brass ideal fo any room £9 ono may deliver 01515263851

TV/DVD CABINET in mahogany wood corner unit with pull down front with shelf space £30 ono may deliver 01515263851

CHANDELIER FITTING Small 5 arm Chandelier ceiling pendant with brass fittings. Lovely condition. £15 07747 616679

PINE BENCH Antique 6 foot long school or hall bench in original condition, folds flat when not in use.£75 0151 9281955

CERAMIC TILES Spanish tiles cinnamon colour with small brown diamond insert tile 7sq. Yards. £45.00 01704 226969

CERAMIC VASE 22 inch high covered in raffata 37 inch wide. £5 01704220356

WINE RACK 36 bottled wood/metal wine rack £10 07897228418

TABLES Nest of 3 mahogany tables with glass tops,£40 ono 07902849495

DVD BOX SET the lost series 1-6 very good condition £15 01695322096

T.V. TABLE Black glass, three shelves chrome legs £20 ono 0151 4760521

COFFEE TABLE Black glass coffee table two shelves chrome legs £20ono 0151 4760521

3 PIECE cream leather suite, reclining chair and pouffe. Good condition £150 01695726362

CLEANER UPRIGHT as new, can deliver local, excellent condition £80 01704884564

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HOUSE AND HOME

THREE SEATER sofa bed. Lilac. From Stockers. Excellent condition. £250 01704 574540

SOFA 3 SEATER ivory jumbo cord clean from non smoking house £50 ONO 07521361243

BRASS COLOURED curtain pole good as new 6ft length £10 ONO 01704579119

MAHOGANY DISPLAY unit, dining table & 6 chairs. Free to collector 01704893942

TWO 3 light ceiling fittings with six glass shades in brass may deliver £16 ono 01515263851

ANTIQUE BRASS 3 candle bulb (60w each) ceiling light. Plain. VGC £5 07855222552

BLANCO STAINLESS sink drainer - 18" diameter. Unused. £30 07855222552

DINNER SET 32 piece, never used. White £20 01704 535569

PARKER KNOLL sofa bed, good condition £60 01704 833473

MISC

"STRIKE!" CLEANER 5 Litre container genuine "STRIKE!" Multi-Purpose Heavy-Duty Cleaner, unopened £20 07434 0838569

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS Old Vintage sought after G Plan sideboard, round dining room table, microwave two armchairs with loose covers, three wardrobes, old five drawer tall boy, and other items. From £10 07387439004

SUNNCAMP TENT Family Vario 4. Brand new never used. Will accept 50 for quick sale 07469748356

MISC

HAIR STRAIGHTNERS brush type in white. anti scald, temperature control, head massage function. New boxed with instructions. Bargain £6 01704220356

SAMSUNG WAVE2 mobile phone. Touch screen smart phone unlocked. boxed includes instructions and charger like new no scratches or marks £30 01704220356

SAMSUNG GENIO2 mobile camera phone locked to Tesco mobile in pink/black built in radio/mp3 player and more . includes charger/instructions boxed £15 01704220356

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VINATGE RETRO SIDBOARD Original British Sideboard from G-Plan, 1950s. E Gomme, Brass, Lacquer, Wood. Nice untouched used condition. £140 07387439004

SIGNED PRINT framed and signed print of wayne rooney at everton when 16yrs old frame size 20inx18in with certificate of authenticity £50ono 07790791733

SAMSONITE SUITCASE Medium sized suitcase, 27"wide x 21.5" deep x 8.5" high, key lock, central divider, hanger attachment. £15. (Ainsdale) 07985 050276

WHEELED SUITCASE 'American Tourister' brand suitcase. 28"wide x 20.5" deep x 11" high, combination lock, central divider, 1 pocket. £15. (Ainsdale) 07985 050276

GOLD BRACELET 9ct curb design, hallmarked solid Rose gold 8 inches approx 7.5grams, mans or ladies, would make very nice Valentines present £175 01704831977

MISC

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MEERKAT BOOKS brand new hardback volume of 6 were £6 each all for £18 g8 for gift g8 titles no withheld numbers 07504685036

REMINGTON Shine Therapy hair straightener with ceramic coating. Excellent condition. Cost £40. Will accept £20 01704 560518

CHAIR COVERS 100 of each size, small, medium & large for events/weddings. All white £1 a cover. Also bows, various colours.50p a bow 07714536159

QUALITY DARTBOARD as used on tele excellent condition comes with a new unused set of darts bargain £15 01515319425/07773242918

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LADIES WATCH Gold plated dress watch Unwanted gift in original box. £35 o.n.o. 01704 896402

AMETHYST EARRINGS on silver wire bought for present & not given. In original box £10 o.n.o 01704 896402

VIDEO CASSETTES World at War from 1933-1941, narrated by Laurence Olivier, 6 cassettes £30 01704461083

MISC

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CALLAWAY Big Bertha Warbird Driver very good condition right handed bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

IAN CALLAGHAN Book signed inside to kevin best wishes ian callaghan bargain £5 01515319425/07773242918

SIGNED PRINT signed and framed print of andrei kanchelskis at everton frame size 22inx18in £15 ono 07790791733

VHS VIDEOS Dr Who the master ltd edition tin set, Dr Who colony in space/time monster £offers 07790791733

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BUBBLE WRAP Large roll of bubble wrap cost £42 never used £25 01504760521

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LADIES BOOKS Approximately 40 plus. Ideal for book sale. £10 07751422585

MISC

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2018/0038/FUL Siting of a residential mobile home at Cross House, Liverpool Old Road, Sollom, Tarleton.

Application No: 2018/0053/FUL Installation of new shopfront at 22 - 24 Moor Street, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2018/0057/FUL Change of use from Class A1 use to mixed use of Class A1, A3 and A5 to provide a vegan and organic artisan food market and eatery with hot food takeaway at 9 - 11 Aughton Street, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 31st January 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT983

PILKINGON Died at Skelmersdale
Edward William On the 1 August 2016

The kin of the above are requested to apply to the Solicitor for the Affairs of the Duchy of Lancaster, Farrer & Co, 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LH failing which the Duchy Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate of the above named.

Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GORE ANDREW

Maureen and family would like to thank everyone who attended Andrew's funeral, the support shown was overwhelming and of great comfort to us all.

Special thanks to Father David, Lesley, the choir and all of those who helped in the church to make the service a special occasion.

We would also like to give a special thank you to the staff at both Royal Preston and Royal Blackburn Hospitals for the excellent care for Andrew during his 18 weeks in hospital.

Thank you also goes to the staff at Hurlston Hall for their hard work which helped the wake run smoothly.

A big thank you also to Dave and Claire at Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors who showed the family compassion, caring and took very good care of Andrew "Our of Main Man".

Finally thank you for all the kind donations to the Magic Fund.

TICKLE SIAN

22.12.2017

Molly, Ben, Stan and family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the sympathy cards and kind messages of condolence received, and for the generous donations to Woodlands Hospice in memory of Sian, special thanks to Mrs Robinson and colleagues at Merchant Taylors 'Girls' School for their Help and Support in arranging Sian's Memorial Service, to the wonderful staff at Woodlands Hospice and to H.Leslie Humphreys Funeral Directors for their support at this difficult time.

DEATHS

TASKER MARGARET OLIVE (OLIVE)

24th January 2018
Peacefully with her Daughters Pam and Jan at her side
Aged 93 years

Loving Grandma of Jamie, Katie, Matthew, Simon and Andrew and proud Great Grandma of Ollie, Finn, Sam, Joe, Oscar, Stu, Isabelle and Thomas. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough, L40 7SP, on Thursday 8th February at 11:30am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Alzheimer's Society. Enquiries and donations to Louis Hunter, MLS Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888.

PRIESTMAN MARY

21st January 2018
Peacefully in hospital, aged 89 years

Dearly beloved Wife of Ces. Much loved Mother of Richard. Devoted and caring Grandma to George and Anna. Mary will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and all who knew her. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 8th February 2018 at 1:45pm. Family flowers only by request please, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Macmillan Cancer Support. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 5UU. Tel: 01704 897770.

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

DEATHS

HALLIWELL MARGARET JANET

23rd January 2018
Peacefully in Hospital aged 90 years

Beloved Wife of the late Robert (Bob), Much loved Mum of Joyce, June, Robert, Marian and Mary, dear Mother-In-Law of Maurice, Sammy, Ann, Richard and Jock. A loving and devoted Nan to all her Grand, Great Grand and Great Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 5th February 2018 at 11:30am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Dementia UK. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

WYLIE JAMES ARTHUR

25th January 2018
Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family
Aged 85 years

Devoted Husband of Margaret, Much Loved Father of Carole, Audrey, Pan and Phil, Father in law of Ian, Ken and Ann, Loving Grandad of Claire, James, Peter and Alice, Great Grandad (Grandpa) to George and Harry, Brother of Ron and the late Doreen. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 1:45pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Alzheimers Society. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

HANKIN JACK

19th January 2018
Peacefully at Stocks Hall Nursing Home, Burscough, aged 89 years

Dearly beloved Husband of the late Kathleen. Much loved Dad of Janet and the late Alan. Dear Brother of Mary. A much loved Uncle to all his Nieces and Nephews. Jack will be sadly missed by all family and all who knew him. Funeral Service will take place at the church of St John the Baptist Church, Burscough on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 11:30am followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium at 12:15pm. Family flowers only by request please, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Stocks Hall Nursing Home. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 5UU. Tel. 01704 897770.

PEDEN GLADYS FRANCES

16th January 2018
Aged 87 years
In hospital surrounded by her loving family

Widow of the late Ronald Alexander Peden will be sadly missed by Daughters Cath, Lin, Deb and San. Son's-In-Law Russ, Rob, Keith and Ian. Grandchildren Lee, Andi, Kev, Sarah and Ste. Great Grandchildren Jack, Ellie and Abi. Funeral Service was held at West Lancs Crematorium Burscough on Thursday 25th January 2018. Donations to Cancer Research UK. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel: 01695 731199

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

SEARY JOHN

Formerly of Ledburn Skelmersdale and Springfield Place, 4 Squares Liverpool
Passed away peacefully on the 18th January 2018
Aged 81 years

Beloved Husband, Dad, Brother, Uncle, Grandad and Great Grandad. A Funeral Service will take place at West Lancs Crematorium Burcough on Friday 2nd February at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Stocks Hall Care Home, Skelmersdale. C/o and all enquiries to W Banks of Orrell, Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, WNJ 8UP Tel: 01695 622 272

RIGBY EDWARD

Aged 84
Died peacefully at Southport Hospital on 23 January 2018

Much loved Husband of Dorothy. Devoted Dad of Tracy and Mark, adored Grandad of Kate, Michael, Murray and Ross and Great Grandad of Isaac and Jacob. Beloved Brother of Ann. Dearly loved, sadly missed. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium 1st February 3:15pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Kidney Research UK. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997

DE''BARR DAVID RUSSELL

Suddenly Passed aged 64, Beloved son of Ethel and of the late Gordon. Brother to Sue and Karen, Step dad to Wayne and Grandad to Jaymielee. Funeral at West Lancashire Cremetorium, Burscough on Friday 16th February at 2.30pm

Forever in our Hearts

DEATHS

BRANDON SUSAN (SUE)

Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice on 29th January 2018 aged 56 years

Dearly Loved Wife of Bill. Much Loved Sister of Lorna, William, George and Gordon, Loving Aunty of Liam, Kirstie, Hayley and Lillia. Loved and Missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at West Lancs Crematorium on Thursday 8th February 2018 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888.

BROCKLEHURST JOAN WINIFRED

After a short illness on 20th January 2018 at Stocks Hall Residential Home Aged 87 years.

Much loved Wife of Alec Brocklehurst. Much loved Mum of Alex, Alistair, Ian, Andrew and Paul. Loving Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Loving Sister of Monica, Reg and Jeanette. Will be sadly missed by all her family and all who knew her. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 5th February 2018 at 10.45am. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for the British Heart Foundation/Dementia Society. Further enquiries please to: The Co-operative Funeralcare, 36 Westway, Maghull, L31 0AB Tel: 0151 527 1709.

NAYLOR BARBARA (Nee Large)

19th January 2018
Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale
Aged 85 years

The dearly loved Wife of Harold, loving Mum of Christine and Paul, dear Mother In Law of Philip and treasured Nan to all her Grand and Great Grandchildren. Much loved and missed all her family and friends. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H.Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

Announcements

DEATHS

O'SHEA SUZANNE

6th January 2018

Aged 54 years

Eternally at Peace. Much loved Mum of Liam. Suzanne will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 5th February at 10:40am. Flowers welcome. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

MARSH AMY FRANCES

Peacefully in her sleep on 23rd January 2018

Aged 91 years

Reunited with her beloved Husband Gilbert, dear Mum to Nicholas and Simon, loving Granny to her six Grandchildren and Great Granny to her Great Grandson. Funeral Service and Cremation at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 2nd February at 3:15pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations to Cancer Research UK would be appreciated. All enquiries and any donations to Hunters of Ormskirk. 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk, L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572 997

HUMPHREYS BRIAN

22nd January 2018

Passed away peacefully aged 78 years

Dearly loved Husband of Ann, much loved Dad of Lynn, Loving Grandad of Shelley and Jonathan and a dear Brother of Maurice and Rodney. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium Burscough on Monday 12th February at 11:30am. Family flowers only please. Donations if so desired for one's own choice. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

WALKER SYDNEY (SYD)

On 25th January 2018

Peacefully in hospital

Aged 86 years

Beloved husband of Elma, Dad of Cheryl, Syd, David, Pamela, Michael and Debbie, Father in law of Christine and Christopher, Grandad of Stephen, Simon, Caroline, Matthew, Bryony, Luke, David, Becky, Nicola, Laura and Sarah, and a Great Grandad and Great Great Grandad. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 5th January at 1:00pm. Family flowers only by request donations if so desired for Cancer Research UK. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG, Tel. 01704 214118.

McGONIGAL FRANK

23rd January 2018

Peacefully in hospital, aged 86 years

Loving Husband of the late Chris, Devoted Dad of Sara, Jo, Suzie and Carol, Cherished Grandad of all his Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Requiem Mass will be held at St Richards Church on Thursday 8th February at 9:45am followed by Committal at St Helens Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for N.W.T.S. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

VERA JOAN NOAKES

21st January 2018

Aged 94 years

Peacefully after a short illness in Clitheroe Hospital

Reunited with her beloved Husband Albert. She will be greatly missed by her Daughter Rosa and her partner Jason and will be sadly missed by her family & friends. Funeral service will be held at St Andrews Church Maghull on Friday 9th February at 11am followed by Cremation at West Lancs Crematorium. Family flowers only by request but donations if desired to Alzheimers Society c/o Thompsons F.S. 175A Liverpool Rd South Maghull L31 8AA where Vera will be resting. Tel 0151 5261815

DEATHS

KUIVALA JAMES PETER (Peter)

January 19th 2018

Aged 95 years

Peacefully in Ward 33 at Aintree Hospital after Heart Attack and Stroke in mid November. Beloved Husband of late Mary (Dolly). Peter will be sadly missed by his Sister Barbara, Nieces and Nephews and all family and friends. The Funeral Service will be at West Lancashire Crematorium in Burscough L40 7SP on Thursday 1st February at 1:45pm. Family flowers only please but donations in memory would be greatly appreciated on behalf of British Heart Foundation and Stroke Association. Further enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk 128 Burscough Street Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997

DEATHS

DICKINSON GORDON JOHN

Died 24th January 2018

aged 84 years, of Norwich

Beloved Son of Alec and Elsie, Loving Brother of Maureen, Malcolm and the late Jean, Beloved Father of Karen, Kevin, Sherry, Gordon, Hannah, Alexandra and Alec. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 6th February at 11:30am. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for Dementia UK. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP. Tel: 01704 891555.

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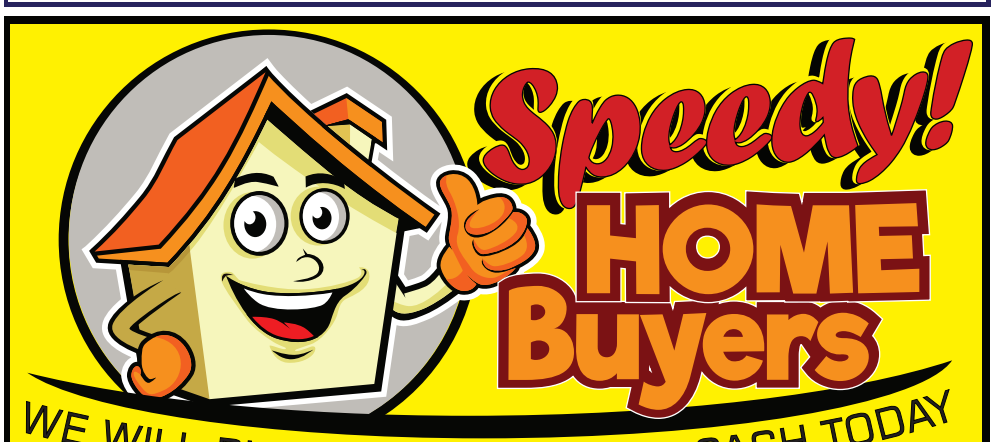

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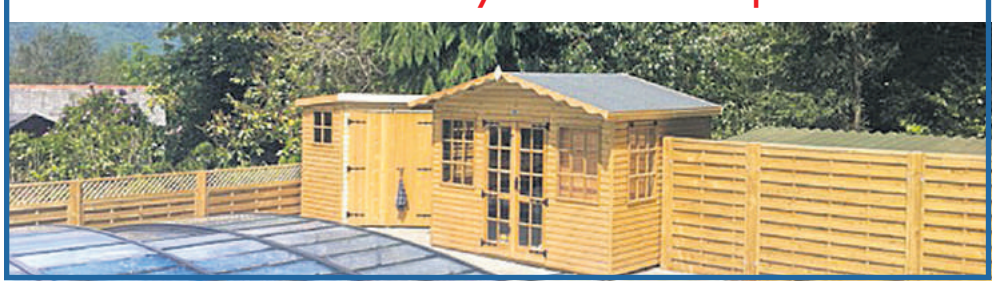

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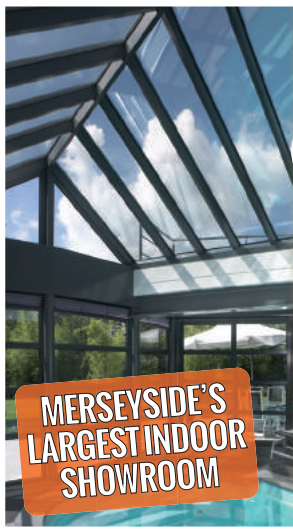

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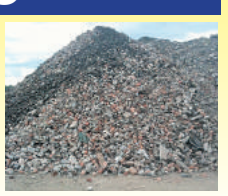

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I fear breaking down on not-so-smart motorways

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IT'S AMAZING how much motoring tech has come on in the past decade or so – but I'm not entirely convinced it's always a good thing. Particularly when a little orange light starts to play tricks on you. The illumination in question is a dashboard warning light VW fits to its more recent offerings that lets you know its on-board tyre pressure sensor thinks you're about to hit a puncture.

Having had a Golf give me advance notice of a flat tyre on an outing last year I know that it works tremendously well – except when it doesn't, because the person who borrowed the car before you admitted to kerbing an alloy a few hours earlier. In the end it turned out said colleague's parking ineptitude had knocked the sensor out of sync, everything was fine and I was able to get off scot-free for the rest of my 200-mile journey, but it's where the light came on that really unnerved me. Anyone who regularly ventures down the M6 will know there's a stretch just south of Thelwall Viaduct that's being upgraded into a smart motorway, and it feels like it goes on forever.

It's frustrating enough when you're forced to sit at fifty while all the lorries thunder past obliviously, but when you're suddenly alerted to the possibility of an imminent puncture and realise there are still several miles of roadworks before you can pull over safely that you start to get worried.

Especially when you remember the car you're in isn't even fitted with a space saver. The idea of tackling a dead tyre on an open motorway with only a can of gunk to help is mildly terrifying.

Properly managed motorways can cope with using the hard shoulder as a fourth lane, but it's the horribly narrow ones that are still being built that worry me. There were proposals a while ago to limit these stretches to a more palatable two miles long – rather than the 15 or so the longer ones are now – but it seems to have quietly disappeared under the hazy fug of Whitehall bureaucracy. I've always hated the roadworks leading up to smart motorways because they're the very opposite; with their average 50mph limits that people routinely ignore, constructions sites that are hardly ever frequented and unbearable length they're anything but clever. But they could even be dangerous. Fingers crossed I don't get a real puncture, then…

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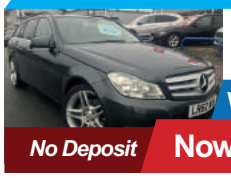

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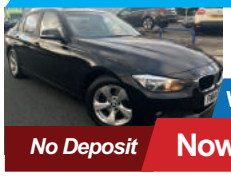

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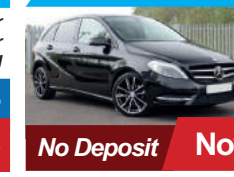

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Deposit Allowance	£1,800.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
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Amount of Credit	£10,176.78	**APR Representative**	5.3%
45 Monthly Payments	£159.98		

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Customer Deposit	£195.00	Interest Charges	£1,356.17
Deposit Allowance	£1,600.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£15,688.00
Amount of Credit	£12,036.83	**APR Representative**	4.2%
47 Monthly Payments	£195.00		

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1.2 SE 87ps 3dr
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Customer Deposit	£199.00	Interest Charges	£1,633.32
Deposit Allowance	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£16,713.00
Amount of Credit	£13,680.68	**APR Representative**	4.2%
47 Monthly Payments	£199.00		

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For just **£229** per month

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Cash Price	£19,336.58	Optional Final Payment	£6,650.00
Customer Deposit	£229.00	Interest Charges	£1,865.77
Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Total Amount Payable	£21,188.06
Amount of Credit	£15,607.58	**APR Representative**	4.2%
47 Monthly Payments	£229.98		

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For just **£239** per month

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Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£16.280.67	Total Amount Payable	£18,955.00
47 Monthly Payments	£239.00	**APR Representative**	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Grandland X
1.2T SE 5dr
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Cash Price	£20,458.48	Optional Final Payment	£9,049.00
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The tackle which saw both Hollett and Chappell sent off. Pictures by John Driscoll

Three sent off as Skem battle for hard earned point

Skelmersdale United 0
Atherton Collieries 0

THREE players were sent off in the first half during a full-blooded encounter which ended up goalless, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Skelmersdale lost their captain, Liam Hollett, to a dismissal, with Atherton having both debutant Neil Chappell and forward Darhyll Mason sent off.

Remarkably, Hollett and Chappell were sent off over the same incident when both players challenged each other for the ball.

The game had started pretty openly. In the first ten minutes many of Skelmersdale's approaches on goal were via Jordan Darr, the number seven who is on a dual registration from Chorley, is both quick and tricky.

Phil Mooney has a shot at goal

Skelmersdale had a great chance in the 19th minute. Former Everton player Tom Molyneux won the ball on the right and passed to Darr in the penalty area. He helped the ball across goal where Tyler Rufus couldn't get a clear connection and Atherton goalkeeper Greg Hartley saved above his head.

On the half hour mark everything changed. Right in front of the dug-outs Hollett miscontrolled then played a bouncing ball forward.

Within a blink of the eye he was hit by a late tackle from Chappell. Hollett went down injured and while he was getting treatment both benches appeared to be at odds with each other.

Eventually after a long consultation between all three officials Chappell was shown a red card then after he got to his feet Hollett was shown one too. Apparently both were for high challenges. The first time many of us have ever seen such a decision made.

In the 42nd minute the sending off count went up to three.

Mason who had already been booked for a bad tackle on Roddy that might have warranted a red itself fouled Skem goalkeeper Callum Lee Roberts. Referee Ian Gittens took him to one side lectured him and it didn't look like a card would be dispensed. As the two separated Mason appeared to continue to shout the referee and a second yellow and red was displayed and now it was ten against nine. Skelmersdale started the second-half fairly well and Jack Lenehan put a through ball to Rufus that was just reached first by keeper Hartley.

Atherton then had a quarter-hour on the offensive. The highlights being a shot from Ben Hardcastle that went just wide after a run along the 18 yard line and shot from an angle by Iain Howard that Roberts saved with his legs.

As the last 15 minutes approached both teams showed signs of fatigue setting in, both were short on numbers and the added running was taking its toll on the heavy clinging pitch.

For all the tiredness Darr was still the main danger man for Skem. In the 75th minute he had a shot saved by Hartley, then in the 77th minute he ran onto a poor headed back pass from Jake Kenny, rounded keeper Hartley but from a very tight angle his goal bound shot was headed off the line by Danny Lafferty.

When the final whistle was sounded there were two tired teams leaving the pitch. It had been a hard fought but scrappy encounter.

After the match Skelmersdale manager Dave Powell said: "I thought we started well and were causing them some problems, then the sending offs changed the momentum of the game.

"I am absolutely made up with the clean sheet, we have been striving for that and it's another point on the board. We can move into the next few games with a bit more confidence."

Hotshot teen set for extended loan spell

JORDAN Darr has agreed a contract with National League North side Chorley - and the good news for local fans is that it is reported that he will be loaned back to Skelmersdale.

The 18-year-old, who has been playing for Skelmersdale on a dual registration basis from The Magpies, has scored three goals in his five appearances for United since he signed in late December.

He had previously been playing for Chorley's development squad and moved to Skem to give him some experience of playing adult football. His goals include a late equaliser at Ramsbottom and a brace of goals in the big Skem comeback at Mossley two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Dave Powell has brought one familiar and popular player back to Skelmersdale in the form of Chris Cheetham. He was a regular fixture in goal for Alan Rogers Skelm side in the second-half of last season. He left to join Southport in the latter stages before moving on to Lancaster City in the summer.

Skelmersdale face a trip to Bamber Bridge on Saturday and then on Tuesday, February 6 they visit Colne in a rearranged fixture.

Linnets set for return to action

BURSCOUGH'S match last Saturday against 1874 Northwich was called off due to a waterlogged pitch so they will be hoping to return to action this weekend.

This Saturday they are at home to Hanley Town, who are aiming at promotion.

The Linnets went down 2-0 in the Potteries in early November but put up a gallant fight.

Hanley although still in the promotion push are not quite performing as well as they were then, while Burscough, have pulled themselves up the table since, so it could be a good game at Victoria Park.

Supporters will hope for an end-to-end match with both teams going for the win.

The game is still scheduled for a 3pm kick off, but it has been said that the club is still waiting for a crucial part to repair their floodlights, so the game may kick off at 2.30pm.

Supporters are advised to check the club website or Twitter account, or of course go down a bit earlier.

After Saturday, Burscough don't have a game until Saturday, February 17 when they travel to Abbey Hey.

This is due to there being 23 teams in the North-West Counties Premier Division this season, so it's their turn to be the odd one out on Saturday, February 10.

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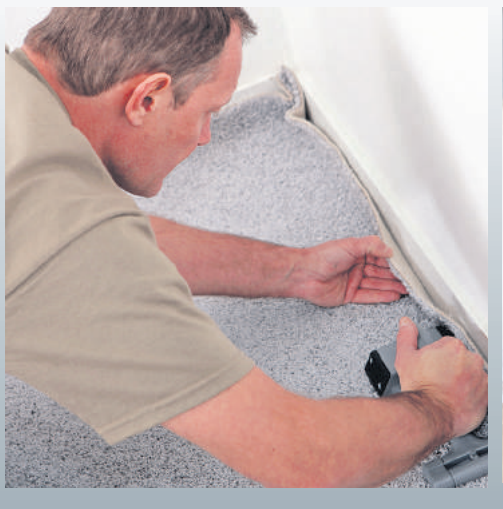

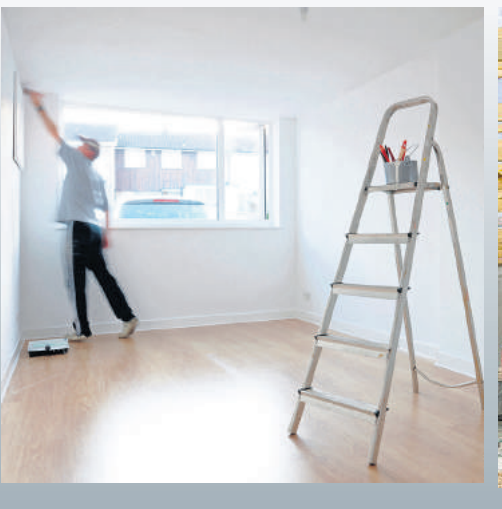

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First welcomed by the local community back in 1980, Checkers of Churchtown started out in business selling timber, wallboards, plywood, melamine and beading etc., all of which could be cut to size (a service which is still available at Checkers to present day)

They also offered an extensive range of hardware, something quite unusual for a local DIY shop at the time. It was this base that soon led to their huge success in the area and in turn opened new doors for the company, expanding into Kitchens, Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Wallpaper and fabrics.

Take a walk through Checkers showroom today and you will be amazed at the huge range of displays and home furnishings. Put together with style and flair, their showroom designs are specially created to tap into your imagination and open your mind into new layouts and colour schemes.

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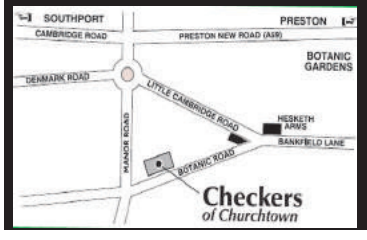

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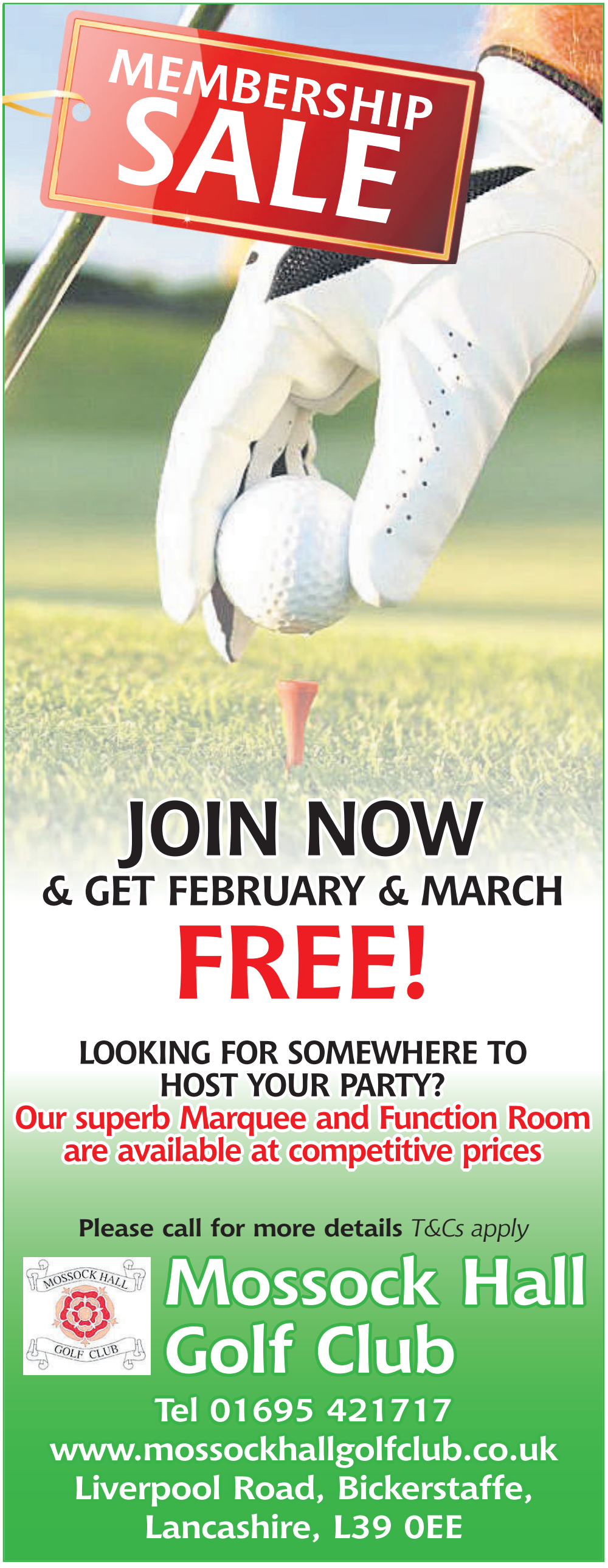

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The Hunter ladies are highly respected in the business and Margaret is President of the NAFD (National Association of Funeral Directors) Mersey Region, now serving her third year in the role. They are very proud of the standards they maintain and are highly rated as community funeral directors.

"We pride ourselves on giving families the best send off possible for their loved ones, whatever their needs or wishes, nothing is too much trouble," said Lisa and Sally. "With this being a very specialised area of work, our Funeral Directors are highly qualified and experienced in this field. We listen carefully to each of our family's requirements and ensure that their needs are always met."

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For many years, the Hunter ladies have shown great determination to carry on their high standard of care towards families. This is shown in Lisa and Sally's dedication in gaining their qualifications whilst also bringing up families of their own at the same time. Sally achieved her Scales Award for the Diploma of Funeral Directors in just 12 months – an award highly respected in the business and Lisa excels in Repatriation and arranging Bespoke Funerals.

The next generation continues the high standard

Lisa and Sally have recently introduced their own families into the business with sons Louis and Oliver and daughters Anabel and April all qualified and accredited by the NAFD. As the next generation of MLS, they themselves have grown with the business over the years and the standards of care and respect come naturally to them.

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Tel: 01704 891555

Cygnet Kitchens

4 Swan Alley, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 2EQ

01695 581900 or 01695 575573

www.cygnet-kitchens.com

A new kitchen is an important addition to any home. It has to be designed well to fit your needs, made of quality to house excellent appliances and is generally one of the most expensive rooms to up grade, every detail will count as a kitchen or bedroom will have to last for many years.

Cygnet Kitchens are an established business that stops at nothing to ensure total satisfaction from start to finish on any new kitchen or bedroom they undertake. This is why in a matter of a few years the company has known huge success, even in those economically challenging times.

The business started in 2013 under the helm of Paul Wilkinson and Brian Critchley who very quickly became a very well respected Kitchen Company within the area.

So what have the two men to offer that is so different from other retailers and why do their customers keep recommending them? The first important reason is simply 40 plus years experience in the kitchen industry from the pair. They are also able to take on a brief and develop it fully thanks to highly trained technicians who will always go that extra mile to ensure each job is delivered on time and within the budget agreed.

Kitchen design in particular has suffered over the years from a poor reputation by national suppliers who in a matter of minutes put a plan together, leading to unfulfilled expectations and delays.

Cygnet Kitchens are a million miles away from that as they fully project manage every thing they undertake and only use highly trained quality tradesmen.

Add to this, partnership with some of the biggest and most loved brands in the UK (AEG, BOSCH and SIEMENS to name but three) and you know you can trust Cygnet Kitchens completely from the moment you step into their beautiful showroom.

Paul and Brian are also introducing new concepts with the opening of an additional showroom with a very new and clever concept of a Cook Centre designed for you to try new appliances and see exactly what your kitchen will benefit from before you purchase. Another assurance of a guarantee of quality from this innovative company.

It's no wonder that Cygnet Kitchens has achieved over 80% of their new business from recommendations by happy customers and as Paul points out: 'This is probably the most important thing in what we do, 100% customer satisfaction is the very thing we strive to deliver and the best advert you can have.

Phase one of our additional new showroom is now complete, phase two is underway with an exclusive range of German kitchens by Schüller (kitchens for life)... Watch this space!... It pays to consider Cygnet Kitchens if you are looking for a new kitchen or bedroom. Why not have a chat with Paul or Brian today?

Cygnet Kitchens

NOW OPEN!

PHASE ONE OF OUR NEW BESPOKE SHOWROOM AT THE MALTHOUSE BUSINESS CENTRE ORMSKIRK

COMING SOON PHASE TWO WITH EXCLUSIVE

schüller.

RANGE OF GERMAN QUALITY KITCHENS

NUMBER 1 THE MALTHOUSE BUSINESS CENTRE, 48 SOUTHPORT ROAD ORMSKIRK L39 1QR 01695 581900

MICHEL ROUX JNR

CYGNET KITCHENS ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THEY HAVE BEEN GRANTED **NORTH OF ENGLAND DEALERSHIP** FOR **MICHEL ROUX JNR KITCHENS...** YOU CAN VIEW THEIR EXCLUSIVE BRITISH HAND CRAFTED RANGE OF KITCHENS AT:

www.rouxkitchens.com

Cygnet Kitchens

• KITCHENS • BEDROOMS • HOME STUDY

WE MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE... POSSIBLE! SEE FOR YOURSELF!

FROM MAKEOVERS TO FULL KITCHEN INSTALLATION INCLUDING PROJECT MANAGED BUILDING WORK

FREE HOME SURVEY
FREE
PLANNING & DESIGN
AND WE WILL BEAT ANY LIKE-FOR-LIKE QUOTE!

AEG Premier Partner

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01695 575573
www.cygnet-kitchens.com
Email: cygnetkitchens@gmail.com

CALL IN TO OUR SHOWROOM FOR THE LATEST SUPERB OFFERS

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www.fwssupplies.com

fws1@btconnect.com

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- Compressors
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- Power Tools
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- Pillar Drills
- Heaters
- Air Tools
- Welding Sets
- Gas Supplies
- Personal Protection Equipment

We make it our business to know all our customers very well ... who they are, the type of business they are in, and what their requirements are.

FWS Supplies Ltd, opened in Burscough in 1995 and is now celebrating 23 years supplying a full range of industrial gases for commercial and domestic use, as well as a comprehensive range of welding and engineering equipment.

An official appointed BOC agent, FWS carries the largest stocks in the area for Oxy/Acetylene cutting and welding equipment, as well as MIG- TIG – MMA & plasma processes.

They also stock helium balloon gas in a variety of cylinder sizes and an account facility can be arranged.

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OUR PRICE ONLY £179

ELECTRICIANS SET
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1/2" DRIVE SOCKET SET
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OUR PRICE ONLY £619

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FREE TOP BOX COVER
Stock Number: TC8140NF
RRP £1,019

44% DISCOUNT

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MEGA DEAL
Combi Pliers - 3/8 Socket Set - Screwdriver Set
Stock Number: MB452-8T - M3812N1 - MD906N
RRP £121.70

OUR PRICE ONLY £169

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Stock Number: TM095
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ADJUSTABLE WRENCH SET
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RRP £106.90

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Masamuni

Unit 12, The Wharf, Liverpool Road North,
Burscough, L40 5RZ

01704 894 804

masamuni@hotmail.co.uk

The Team at Masamuni

We would like to welcome our current LOYAL clients and new clients to our salon.

With our 5 star service and exceptional staff, educated in all aspects of the hairdressing industry, Masamuni can cater to all your haircare needs.

Be different.
Be beautiful.
Be you.

Masamuni are very pleased to welcome Tips+Toes to the salon this year. Louise from Tips+Toes will be here for all your beauty needs whilst Hayley and the team will be ready for all your hair needs.

As a welcome to all our lovely clients, old and new, Tips+Toes will be having 25% off all treatments until the end of March.

Masamuni will also be doing blow dries + acrylics with shellac for just £19.99! Come down and treat yourself.

We hope to see your soon. Hayley + team and Louise.

MASAMUNI
Be different. Be beautiful. Be you

PRICE LIST

— LADIES —

Blow-Dry … from £13
Cut & Blow … from 27
Re-style … £32
Dry Cut … £11.50
Wet Cut … £13.50
Hair Up's/Crurls … from £20

— GENTS —

We offer a full range of treatments, colour, semi-washes and funky cuts for even the most discerning gentlemen

Head Shave … £6
Cut … £8
Cut, Wash & Finish … £13.50
Colour, Cut & Wash … £28

— COLOUR/FOILS —

Colour … £47
Semi … £43
Additional End Re-fresh … £5
Colour & Toner … £57
Top Section … £45
1/2 Head … £59.50
Full Head … £77

Reduced rate for Senior Citizens: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

Hair-up's specialists and Wedding Packages available. Please ask for details.

Gift Vouchers available

Louise + Hayley

— VOUCHER —
TIPS&TOES AT
BURSCOUGH WHARF
Shellac Nails
PLUS Cut & Blow
(NEW JUNIOR STYLIST)
only £19.99
Offer ends 31st March 2018. Voucher code: MWLP1

— OPENING TIMES —

Monday … Closed
Tuesday … 9:00–5:00
Wednesday … 9:00–5:00
Thursday … 9:00–9:00
Friday … 9:00–7:00
Saturday … 8:30–3:30
Sunday … Appointment only
Private appointments available on request.

Tips&toes

PRICE LIST

Nail Tidy … £8
Manicure … £15
Luxury Manicure with Shellac … £25
Pedicure … £15
Pedicure with Shellac … £20
Acrylics … £25
Acrylics with Shellac … £30
Gel Extensions … £20
Gel Extensions with Shellac … £25
Shellac Hands … £10
Shellac Toes … £10
Shellac Hands & Toes … £20

Call Louise

Mobile 07511 518 656

MASAMUNI

Unit 12 · The Wharf · Liverpool Road North · Burscough · L40 5RZ

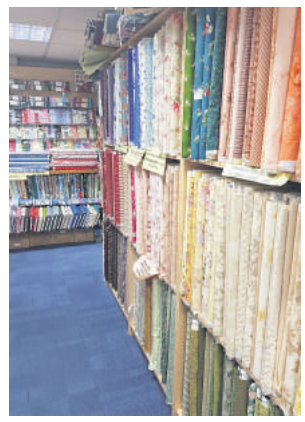
Telephone: **01704 894 804** · Email: masamuni@hotmail.co.uk

Crafts and Quilts

118 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9SX

Tel: 01704 212257

www.craftsandquilts.net



Celebrating 15 years in Southport

15 years ago Marie decided to finally fufill her dream... from starting sewing as a little girl, Marie has always had a passion for sewing. Now she has one of the largest selections of brandied quilting fabrics in the North West. Crafts and Quilts are a family run business which specialises in quilting and patchwork supplies but we also have a great selection of items for other crafts. Our aim is to provide our items at the best possible prices along with offering inspiration and a friendly service.

Not only do we stock fabrics, we have a great variety of border bindings, quilting supplies, books, patterns and crafts and haberdashery.

If you have not visited our shop before why not pay us a visit and see our full range. You will find us just off the Coastal Road near the Beach and bird sanctuary. Close by is the beautiful Botanic Gardens and historic Churchtown, lovely to wander round. We are only 5 minutes from the town centre and have plenty of free parking spaces right outside our door. However if you are too far from Southport to pay us a visit you can shop online.

As we are constantly updating and extending our products we are unable to have everything online. If you would like help with choosing colours/designs or are looking for something in particular please contact us as we are happy to advise. We can be contacted either by phone, email or via our website. We look forward to seeing you soon!

THE LARGEST SELECTION OF PRECUT FABRICS IN THE COUNTRY

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NOW AVAILABLE INSTORE & ONLINE

Licensed fabrics including

• Jungle book • Disney Princess

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SPECIAL SALE EVENT

3000 Branded Quilting Fabrics from £4.99 yard

Please do not mistake these for cheap fabrics. These are all from the worlds leading branded quilting suppliers

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Matilda's own PREMIUM QUILTING PRODUCTS

5yrd Matilda's own 80/20 wadding

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PR8 4EA

01704 566 611

www.fireplacesandstoves.com

NOW DISPLAYING THE NEW MICHAEL MILLER COLLECTION

As one of the leading fireplace showrooms in Southport, **The Fireplace** sells a wide range of gas, electric and solid fuel fires to customers across Merseyside and the North West. We are based in Birkdale where we hold an extensive stock range featuring more than 125 fires and fireplaces. Our complete supply and installation services are built around quality products at affordable prices, fitted by experienced tradesmen. We supply and fit fireplaces, fire surrounds and specialise in central heating in Southport for your convenience.

Our friendly staff are on call during normal shop hours to assist you in selecting the perfect fireplace. We know it can be a minefield choosing a fireplace that reflects your personality and requirements so our committed staff are only too pleased to help you sift through the massive range of products that today's manufacturers offer.

At **The Fireplace,** we know that after purchasing your new fire or fireplace, the next step is to get it fitted correctly. We highly recommend that all fires and fireplaces are fitted by a professional installer to ensure that current building and safety regulations are adheard to.

Please note that whether or not you choose to have **The Fireplace** arrange the installation of your fire or fireplace, there are important points you should be aware of:

Hearths, Chimneys and Flues
Recent changes to building regulations mean you now need to refer work to your Local Authority Building Control department to be approved and assessed or you must use a Gas Safe Registered Installer or a HETAS installer who will undertake the fitting of fire or fireplace.

Gas Fires
Gas safety Regulations specify that all types of gas fires must be fitted by a Gas Safe Registered Installer who holds a valid certificate of competence to cover gas fires and solid fuel.

All Fires
All fires must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and current building regulations, and must not be fitted directly onto a carpet or floor of combustible materials.

The Fireplace have been serving our customers with fireplaces and wood burners in Southport, and throughout the North of England, for over 20 years. We would like to thank you for reading more about us and we look forward to having the opportunity to fulfil your fireplace requirements.

THE FIREPLACE

Let the Fireplace & Stove Centre warm you up

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- ✔ Fireplace and Stove Installations
- ✔ Flue Liner and Cowl Installations
- ✔ Chimney Diagnosis and Repairs
- ✔ Woodburning Stove Servicing and Repairs
- ✔ Gas Fire Servicing and Repairs
- ✔ Stove Glass Replacement
- ✔ Central Heating Boiler Servicing, Repair & Replacement
- ✔ Electric Fire Supply and Installation

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OFF ROAD PARKING
Telephone: 01704 566611 | Website: www.fireplacesandstoves.com

Boost; Lancashire's Business Growth Hub

0800 488 0057

www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk

info@boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk

Boost needs you West Lancashire!

Call for more West Lancs firms to access funded business support

Business owners in West Lancashire are being urged to make the most of the support on offer from Boost – the county's £7.8m business growth hub.

The call comes after it was revealed that West Lancashire has the lowest uptake of Boost support in the region.

Boost is targeted at ambitious, growing businesses who have the potential to create new jobs. In the last 12-months Boost has assisted 2,400 Lancashire businesses in creating 500 new jobs.

Support is available in areas such as business mentoring, business planning, access to finance, skills development, export advice, innovation and productivity.

Andrew Leeming, Boost programme manager for Lancashire County Council, said: "Our research shows that just 4% of enquiries to Boost have come from West Lancashire. We know there are amazing businesses in West Lancashire, we just want to opportunity to talk with them about how we can help support their growth ambitions."

Just one of the many Lancashire businesses to benefit from Boost is Blackoak Surfacing Ltd, a road surfacing provider which has created five new jobs and increased turnover by 200% after receiving growth mentoring support from Boost.

Thomas Jordan, co-founder of Blackoak Surfacing, said: "The information and guidance provided by the mentors was invaluable to our business. Not only did they help with the overview of employment practices, and necessary forms and procedures, they also discussed how to speak and communicate with staff to ensure we maintain a focussed team.

"Their experience and knowledge was vital in helping us to talk through our ideas and our plans for growth, to keep us on track and achieve our milestones in a sustainable way."x
Andrew Leeming added: "Our message is simple. If you're a growing business based in based in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk, Boost wants to hear from you.

If you are a business that is looking to grow, you sell goods and services to other businesses and you're based in WN8, L39 or L40 postcode areas, then get in touch.

Visit the website:
www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk
for more information or call Boost on:
0800 488 0057

"I was looking for support to organise and improve our manufacturing processes and workflow, I got exactly what I asked for with the mentoring from Boost."

Matt Watts
Gorgeous Cheesecakes

Boost; Lancashire's Business Growth Hub, is helping the county's businesses grow.

If you're looking to fuel your business growth, start the growth conversation today.

- **Funded support**
- **Growth programmes**
- **3,500 businesses helped**

0800 488 0057

Search online for

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Lancashire's Business Growth Hub

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

Lancashire County Council

Disclaimer: Boost Business Lancashire is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and restrictions apply. To see if your business is eligible and qualifies for support from the Boost programme, please call us on 0800 488 0057

#GrowingLancashire